SUDAN EMERGENCY

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2024

Mid-Year Update, June 2024

CREDITS

UNHCR wishes to acknowledge the valuable contributions of all relevant partners at regional and country level, in the preparation of this document.

MAP & STATISTICS NOTE

The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country or territory or area, of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries. All statistics are provisional and subject to change. Regularly updated population figures can be found on the Sudan Situation Portal.

NOTE

This regional inter-agency response plan for the Sudan refugee situation is developed in accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). It covers the time frame from January 2024 to December 2024, and reflects increased population planning figures in comparison with 2023, and associated budget requirements for all countries.

COVER PHOTO

Renad Abdurahman, an 18 year old student was about to start her medical degree program in Sudan when the war started. Renad fled Khartoum with her family to South Sudan. She is hoping to be able to find a way to study and live her dream of becoming a doctor someday. South Sudan has seen a growing number of new arrivals --more than 1,800 a day since 31 December, 2023.

While the vast majority of new arrivals at the Renk transit site had previously been South Sudanese returnees, at the start of 2024, more than half of new arrivals were Sudanese refugees.

© UNHCR / Ala Kheir

Contents

Foreword 5
At a Glance 6
Regional Financial Requirements *(updated June 2024)* 8
Population Planning Figures *(updated June 2024)* 9

Regional Overview 10

MID-YEAR UPDATE 10
Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs 13
Part 2: Regional Strategic Objectives and Priorities 15
- Regional Strategic Objectives 15
- Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities 16
- Regional Partnerships and Coordination 19
- Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus 20
- Regional Monitoring Framework 20

Central African Republic 21

- Population Planning Figures 23

MID-YEAR UPDATE 24
Part 1: Current Situation 25
- Situation Overview 25
- Country Risks and Needs 26

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy 27
- Role of the Government 27
- Inter-Agency Response 27
- Country Strategic Objectives 28
- Sectoral Responses 29
- Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus 34
- Partnership and Coordination 34

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements 35
- Budget Summary by Sector 35
- Budget Summary by Partner 36

Chad 37

- Population Planning Figures 39

MID-YEAR UPDATE 40
Part 1: Current Situation 41

Situation Overview 41
Country Risks and Needs 42
Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy 43
Role of the Government 43
Inter-Agency Response 44
Country Strategic Objectives 44
Sectoral Responses 45
Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus 52
Partnership and Coordination 53
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements 54
Budget Summary by Sector 54
Budget Summary by Partner 55

Egypt 57

Population Planning Figures 59
MID-YEAR UPDATE 60
Part 1: Current Situation 62
Situation Overview 62
Country Risks and Needs 63
Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy 64
Role of the Government 64
Inter-Agency Response 64
Country Strategic Objectives 65
Sectoral Responses 65
Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus 71
Partnership and Coordination 71
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements 72
Budget Summary by Sector 72
Budget Summary by Partner 73

Ethiopia 75

Population Planning Figures 77
MID-YEAR UPDATE 78
Part 1: Current Situation 79
Situation Overview 79
Country Risks and Needs 79
Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy 80
Role of the Government 80
Inter-Agency Response 81
Country Strategic Objectives 81
Sectoral Responses 82
Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus 86
Partnership and Coordination 87
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements 88
Budget Summary by Sector 88
Budget Summary by Partner 89

Libya 91

Population Planning Figures 93
Part 1: Current Situation 94
Situation Overview 94
Country Risks and Needs 94
Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy 95
Role of the State of Libya 95
Inter-Agency Response 95
Country Strategic Objectives 95
Sectoral Responses 96
Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus 100
Partnership and Coordination 100
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements 101
Budget Summary by Sector 101
Budget Summary by Partner 102

South Sudan 103

Population Planning Figures 105
MID-YEAR UPDATE 106
Part 1: Current Situation 107
Situation Overview 107
Country Risks and Needs 108
Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy 111
Role of the Government 111
Inter-Agency Response 112
Country Strategic Objectives 112
Sectoral Responses 113
Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus 119
Partnership and Coordination 120
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements 121
Budget Summary by Sector 121
Budget Summary by Partner 122

Uganda 124

Population Planning Figures..... 126

Part 1: Current Situation 127

Situation Overview..... 127

Country Risks and Needs..... 127

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy 128

Role of the Government 128

Inter-Agency Response..... 128

Country Strategic Objectives 128

Sectoral Responses 129

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus..... 133

Partnership and Coordination..... 133

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements 134

Budget Summary by Sector 134

Budget Summary by Partner 135

Annex 1 – Regional Budget Summary by Country and Partner..... 136

Annex 2 – Regional Monitoring Framework 2024 Targets 140

Foreword

This is the second year of the Regional Refugee Response to the Sudan situation which started in April 2023. As the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Sudan situation, I am acutely aware of the immense responsibility that accompanies the coordination of our joint response efforts for Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, Uganda and beyond.

The past year has witnessed a complex and evolving crisis that has led millions to flee their homes, many of whom sought refuge in neighbouring countries. This exodus and protection crisis, one of the most significant in recent times, has greatly strained the resources of host countries. Their willingness to welcome those fleeing the conflict, despite the challenges they face, exemplifies the solidarity of host communities, and the adherence to the principles set forth in the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.

As we publish the updated Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2024, our focus remains not merely on addressing the immediate needs of the refugees but also on fostering resilience. The plan adopts a holistic approach, recognizing that the well-being of refugees is inextricably linked to the stability and prosperity of host communities. It is not enough to provide shelter and food; we must also create environments where refugees can learn, work, and contribute positively to their host societies. Let's remember that many refugees carry with them capabilities and skills that can be harnessed when given the opportunity.

This comprehensive plan is the culmination of collaborative efforts among governments, 86 national and international organizations, civil society, and, most importantly, the refugee communities themselves.

However, these ambitious goals cannot be achieved in isolation. The success of the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan hinges on impactful delivery and on the continued support and cooperation of our donors, host governments, and partner organizations. We are deeply grateful for the generosity and solidarity shown thus far and urge continued commitment to this cause.

As we move forward, let us remember that at the heart of this crisis are individuals – men, women, girls and boys – each with their own story of resilience and hope. It is our collective duty to not only hear their stories but to act on them, ensuring that every Sudanese refugee can live in safety and dignity, while ceasefires and peace are hopefully more vigorously pursued by others.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of thousands, turning challenges into opportunities and despair into hope.
Let this year be a testament to what we can achieve when we stand united in our commitment to humanity.

Stronger together.

Dr. Mamadou Dian Balde
Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Sudan Situation*(Updated June 2024)*

At a Glance

Regional Planned Response

January-December 2024 *(updated June 2024)*

2.6 M
Refugees[1]

97 K
Returnees[2]

8.1 K
Third Country Nationals

566.5 K
Host Community

Total planning figure
(Refugees, Returnees, Third Country Nationals and Host Community)

3.3 M

USD
1.5 B
Total financial requirements

86
RRP Partners

[1] *This figure includes refugees from Sudan and refugees of other nationalities that were being hosted by Sudan who have fled, and also includes Sudanese refugees hosted in the Central African Republic, Chad, Lbya, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda prior to 15 April 2023.*
[2] *This figure includes refugee returnees and migrant returnees.*

3,316,200
Total planning figure

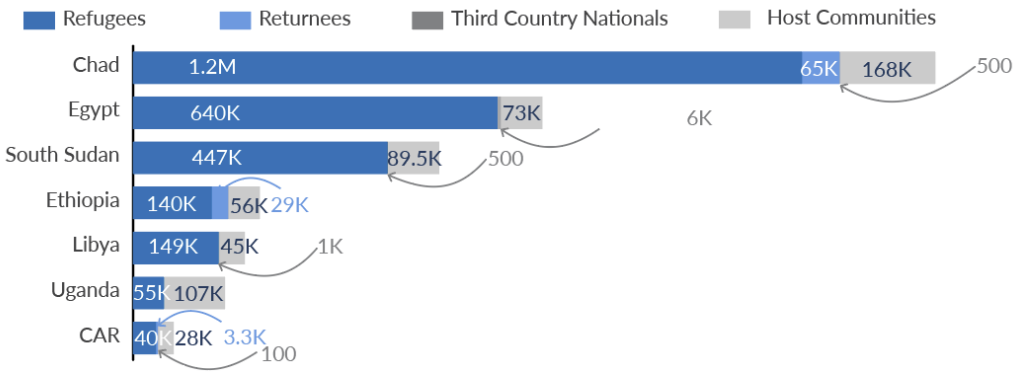
2,644,300
Total projected Refugees (Sudanese and other nationalities)

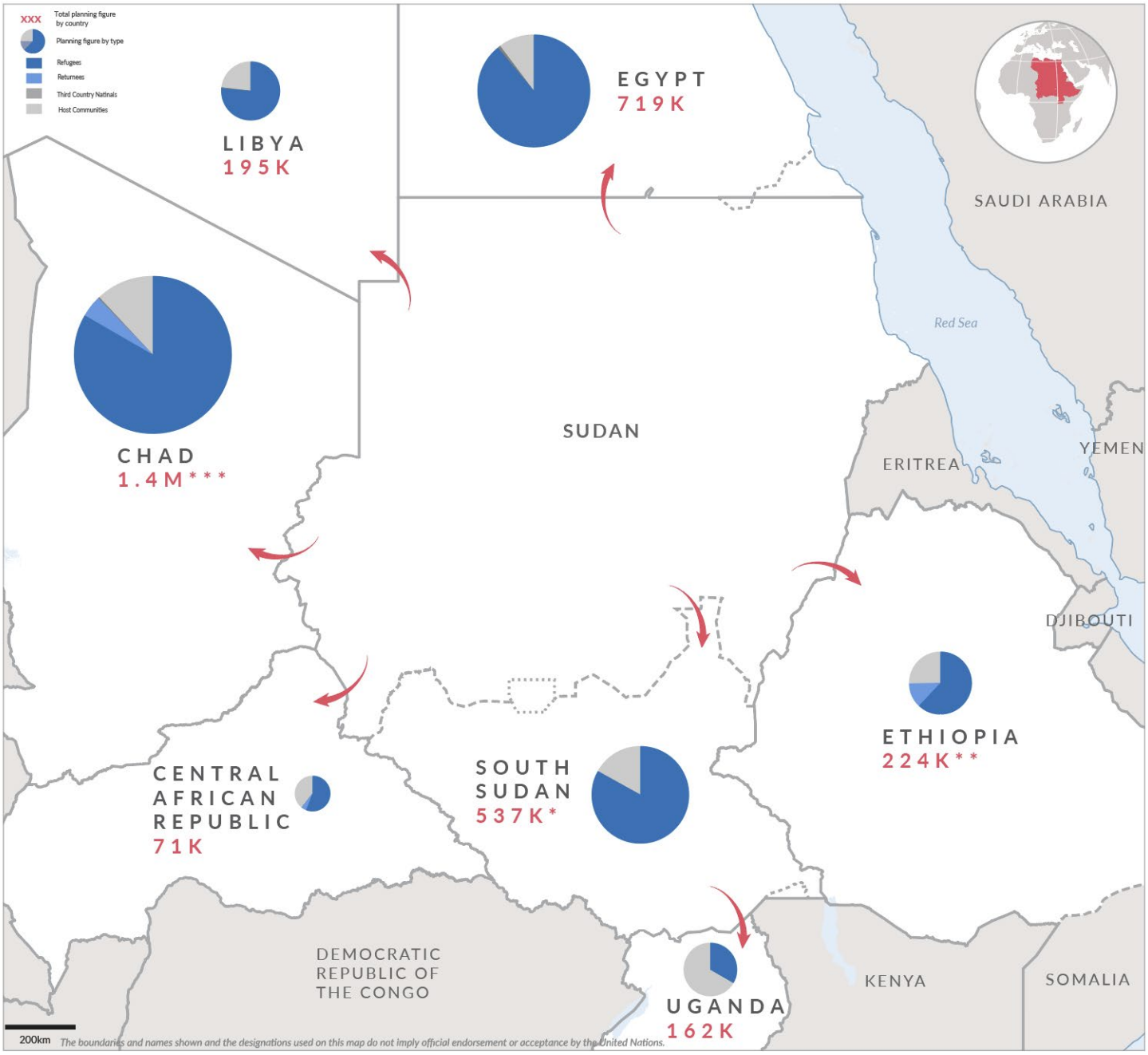
97,300
Total projected Returnees (refugees and migrant returnees)

8,100
Total projected Third Country Nationals

566,500
Total projected Host Communities

Planning figures





** There are an additional 820,000 returnees (refugees and migrants) who are included in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for South Sudan that are not included in the Sudan Regional RRP.*
*** There are 18,000 Ethiopian migrant returnees and 5,000 third country nationals in Ethiopia who are also not included in this RRP; they are reflected in the IOM Response Overview for the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries.*
**** 110,000 migrant returnees from 2023 are included in the HRP for Chad.*

Regional Financial Requirements *(updated June 2024)*

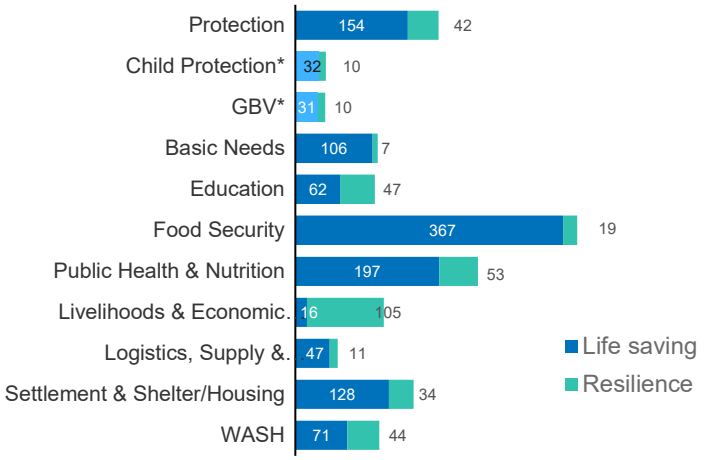
The 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Sudan is appealing for **USD 1.5 billion** for a projected population of **3.3 million people** that includes refugees, returnees, third country nationals and host populations in surrounding areas. There is a concerted effort to build resilience and capacity through this RRP with the inclusion of refugees in national systems, particularly for education and health services, more attention to livelihoods and economic inclusion, and a drive to involve development partners in the response and link to broader development investments that are outside the plan.

Country	Financial requirements in USD	Partners involved
CAR	46.2 M	10
Chad	630.3 M	23
Egypt	183.1 M	27
Ethiopia	175.8 M	25
Libya	48.6 M	17
South Sudan	372.9 M	42
Uganda	50.9 M	9

Total Cash Assistance requirements**
$ 174,132,685

Budget Summary by Sector[3]

Million in USD



** Child Protection and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget*

86
Partners involved

UN Agencies 13	International NGOs 45	National NGOs 28	
$1,298,016,703	$168,939,801	$35,876,002	
IFRC & RC 1	FBOs 8	RLOs 1	FBOs 2
$4,958,498	$17,368,751	$51,025	$6,248,000

*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

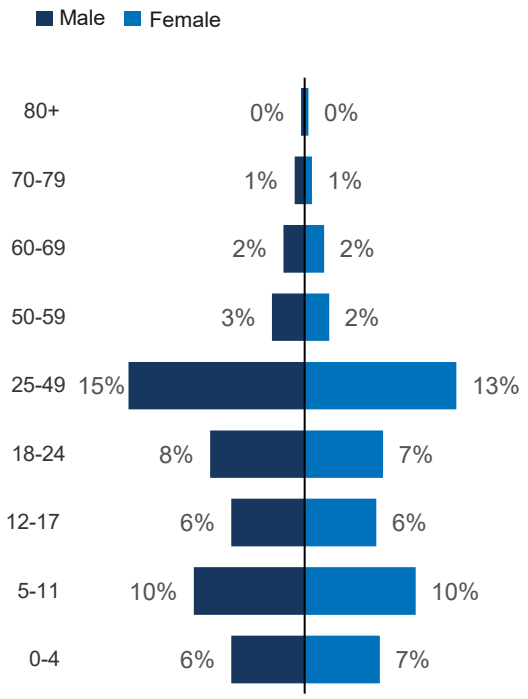
[3] *"Lifesaving" covers immediate, urgent interventions which will be gradually broadened and continued in the long-term. While often entailing short-term interventions during the emergency phase, in a humanitarian situation they often are required for the medium to long-term before resilience is established. "Resilience" covers activities that focus on systems strengthening and the integration of refugees into national systems, social cohesion with hosting communities, and economic inclusion/livelihoods-oriented activities. There are generally medium to long-term interventions although they are being initiated and undertaken at the same time as life-saving humanitarian interventions.*

Population Planning Figures *(updated June 2024)*

Region	Sudanese refugees before 15 April 2023	New arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024*
Refugee Population	837,272	1,075,864	2,644,296
Returnees		506,275	97,300
Third Country Nationals		30,984**	8,100
Host Community			566,505
Total projected population in need			3,316,201

** There are an additional 820,000 returnees (refugees and migrants) who are included in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for South Sudan and are not included in the Sudan Regional RRP. In Chad, 110,000 migrant returnees from 2023 are included in the HRP for Chad. There are 18,000 Ethiopian migrant returnees and 5,000 third country nationals in Ethiopia who are also not included in this RRP; they are reflected in the IOM Response Overview for the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries.*
*** Data for third country nationals for 2023 is provided by IOM.*

Age and gender breakdown



19%
People with disabilities

48%
Women and girls

52%
Men and boys

45%
Children

Regional Overview

MID-YEAR UPDATE

Since the devastating conflict broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in mid-April 2023, the magnitude of displacement within Sudan and into neighbouring and other countries is growing with two new hosting countries – Libya and Uganda – now also part of the Regional Refugee Response Plan.

As the conflict has continued to evolve with constant associated displacement, the Sudan situation is one of the largest displacement, humanitarian and protection crises in the world today. By June 2024, 10 million people have been forcibly displaced. Just over 2 million people have arrived in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda, including refugees, returnees, and third country nationals, with 7.7 million newly internally displaced within Sudan and 220,000 refugees who self-relocated within Sudan.[4]

June 2024: Update in Figures

(new displacement since April 2023)

10 million total displaced in Sudan and into Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda

7.7 million internally displaced in Sudan

2 million refugees, returnees, and third country nationals in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda

220 thousand refugees who self-relocated within Sudan

7 countries in the Regional Refugee Response Plan

In May, Al Fasher in Sudan's North Darfur State became a flashpoint as fighting escalated. Bombings and targeted attacks on densely populated areas have killed civilians, injured thousands, and damaged critical civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and IDP camps. Up to 143,000 people[5] may have been forcibly displaced by the escalation of conflict. The fighting has disrupted aid deliveries with trucks loaded with supplies stuck at the Chad border and along the route from Port Sudan for weeks and months[6].

Sudan is facing the worst levels of acute food insecurity ever recorded by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in the country with 25.6M people facing crisis or worse conditions from June to September 2024[7]. Locations like Darfur, Kordofan and even Khartoum are at risk of famine, compounding an already dire humanitarian situation caused by conflict, severe human rights violations and destruction. UN leaders have called for immediate and decisive action to prevent a hunger crisis that will affect millions, the most vulnerable being the hardest hit.[8]

Most new arrivals from Sudan to neighbouring countries arrive in a poor nutritional state. But it is not only food that refugees need – they need shelter, health care, water and sanitation facilities, basic protection, psychosocial support and education for their children. As the rainy season starts again, especially in the Central African Republic, Chad and South Sudan, with some of the worst flooding in years anticipated in the latter, the logistics and cost of reaching people in border locations and even existing refugee settlements becomes extremely difficult.

At the tragic one-year mark of the Sudan crisis on 15 April 2024, donors pledged 2 billion Euros at a conference in Paris, co-hosted by France, Germany and the European Union. However, despite the continued displacement crisis and looming famine, by 28 June, funding reported for the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Sudan stood at just 19 per cent of the requirements.

The consequences of underfunding are many. Food is impacted in most hosting countries and the food basket provided to refugees could only partially meet the recommended dietary needs, leading to severe food insecurity among refugees and exacerbating harmful coping strategies to meet the nutritional needs of families. For example, in Ethiopia refugees receive 60 per cent of their rations, in Chad, 57 per cent, in South Sudan, just half, and in Uganda, depending on the level of vulnerability, some refugees receive 60 per cent of food rations, other 30 per cent and 4 per cent receive none.

[4] Sudan Situation Data Portal (unhcr.org)
[5] https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-update-24-june-2024
[6] Sudan: Conflict in Al Fasher, North Darfur - Flash Update No. 02 (as of 23 May 2024) [EN/AR] | OCHA (unocha.org)
[7] https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/countries-in-focus-archive/issue-104/en/
[8] UN official warns of imminent famine in Sudan - Sudan Tribune

Other examples of the cost of inaction are:

- Central African Republic: 24,000 refugees are without essential protection, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), healthcare, education, and food services.
- Chad: 180,000 new arrivals still are waiting for relocation in poor conditions at the spontaneous sites along the border.
- Egypt: 74,570 school-aged refugee children are not enrolled in schools and approximately 5,380 unaccompanied and separated children and children with special needs are not reached with educational programmes, denying them the specialized support they require for their development and well-being.
- Ethiopia: About 385 refugees with mental illnesses are unable to continue their treatment as mental health and psychosocial support activities were suspended in the Benishangul-Gumuz camps.
- South Sudan: USD 13.8 M is required to expand refugee camps and settlements to avoid severe overcrowding in existing facilities, compromising basic services such as shelter, water, sanitation, and education. Without these investments the risk of disease outbreaks, poor educational outcomes for children, and heightened vulnerability of residents, particularly women and children, will continue to increase.

The relentless fighting in Khartoum, the catastrophic resumption of intercommunal violence in the Darfur region, the rapid advance of the RSF and the spread of the conflict to the Kordofans and other parts of the country have trapped civilians and made many areas inaccessible for desperately needed humanitarian assistance to be safely delivered. December 2023 saw a spike in violence as the RSF took over Wad Madani, the capital of Sudan's Al Jazirah state, resulting in some 500,000 people fleeing - many of whom had already been displaced several times by the current conflict. [9] Since mid-December 2023, an average of 1,500 daily arrivals of returnees and refugees entered South Sudan through Renk. In Ethiopia, people fleeing Sudan are arriving mainly in the Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regions, with the possibility of thousands who have been displaced in Blue Nile state in Sudan crossing into Ethiopia if there is further violence. In Egypt, authorities have started reinforcing infrastructure at Argeen, a key border crossing from Sudan, in anticipation of a possible surge in new arrivals. Meanwhile in Chad and the Central African Republic, arrivals mainly from Darfur have continued. Without a resolution to the conflict, hundreds of thousands more people will continue to flee across international borders in search of safety and assistance.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Sudan "is experiencing a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions."[10] The widespread fighting has led to shortages of food, water, medicine, fuel and electricity, and has left many civilians without access to essential services.[11] The conflict has disrupted supply chains, restricted humanitarian access and is driving rampant food insecurity.[12] Almost 25 million people, or half of the Sudanese population, are in need of humanitarian assistance.[13] There have been serious violations of International Humanitarian Law including grave child rights violations and gender-based violence (GBV); civilians continue to fall victim to targeted or indiscriminate attacks. Both parties to the conflict have targeted and attacked doctors, journalists, humanitarian workers, activists, human rights defenders and protestors.[14] Displaced persons have faced serious obstacles when seeking to flee to safer areas or across borders, including being prevented from moving, harassment, looting, extortion and violence.

In countries of asylum, the vulnerability of women and girls has been exacerbated by a lack of adequate assistance and limited infrastructure, leading to GBV risks including sexual exploitation at border areas and in camps. Refugee families in countries of asylum are resorting to harmful coping strategies to meet their basic needs. These include selling household assets, reducing the quantity

[9] https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan/card/4VM7zpu6TI/

[10] "Civilians are paying the price of the ongoing fighting." OCHA, *Sudan: Humanitarian Key Messages*, 2 November 2023, www.unocha.org/publications/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-key-messages-november-2023. See also, UNHCR, *An Unimaginable Humanitarian Crisis is Unfolding in Sudan*, 7 November 2023, www.unhcr.org/us/news/briefing-notes/unimaginable-humanitarian-crisis-unfolding-sudan.

[11] OCHA, *Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan*, 21 December 2023, https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2024-december-2023, p. 6.

[12] Ibid., pp. 9-10, 17, 21, 27.

[13] "The humanitarian needs in Sudan are widespread and severe. In 2024, 24.8 million people – or every second person in Sudan – will need humanitarian assistance." OCHA, *Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan*, 21 December 2023, https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2024-december-2023, p. 9. See also, OCHA, *Opening Remarks at the Noon Briefing by Clementine Nkweta-Salami, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan*, 10 November 2023, https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/opening-remarks-noon-briefing-clementine-nkweta-salami-resident-and-humanitarian-coordinator-sudan-10-november-2023. Prior to the eruption of the current conflict, Sudan was already affected by a major humanitarian crisis, with 3.7 million IDPs and 15.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including approximately 11 million people in need of emergency assistance. OCHA, *Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*, 7 November 2022, https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview-2023-november-2022.

[14] REDRESS / SOAS, *Ruining a Country, Devastating Its People*, 13 September 2023, https://redress.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Sudan-report-Ruining-a-Country-Devastating-its-People.pdf, pp. 20-21.

and nutritional value of meals, begging, resorting to the sale or exchange of sex, child and forced marriage, accrual of debt from traders, and withdrawing children from school to engage in child labour to support income-generating activities for the family. Incidents of denial of resources, intimate partner violence and sexual exploitation by community members are also on the rise.[15]

In Sudan, access to healthcare has been critically impacted by the conflict, with direct attacks on health care facilities as well as severe shortages of medicines and vital supplies. Overall, some 65 per cent of the population in Sudan lack access to health care and 70 to 80 per cent of hospitals in conflict-affected areas are no longer functional.[16] The fighting has also caused extensive damage to critical infrastructure, including water, which directly impacts on the health of the population. Conflict, violence and continuing economic decline have driven about 17.7 million people across Sudan (37 per cent of the population) into high levels of acute food insecurity.[17] The conflict has deprived about 12 million children of schooling since April, with the total number of children in Sudan who are out of school reaching 19 million.[18]

According to the World Bank, the economy is expected to contract by 12 per cent in 2023, with the conflict having brought manufacturing to a halt and destroyed human capital and state capacity (in comparison, other recent conflicts such as in Yemen or Syria have seen economies shrink by about 5 per cent per year on average).[19] The border regions of the Central African Republic, Chad, and South Sudan are dependent on cross-border trade with Sudan and the conflict has had a substantial economic impact in these countries as well, increasing both the burden on hosting communities and the cost of the humanitarian response.

The 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Sudan emergency covers a 12-month period, from January to December. The plan builds on the ongoing response under the 2023 RRP. In 2024:

- To support a comprehensive response, the plan includes some 800,000 Sudanese refugees who were present in the five main neighbouring countries of asylum prior to April 2023.
- The host populations in these five countries are also included in the population planning figures for the 2024 plan, reflecting an integrated approach.
- As in 2023, the plan includes refugee and migrant returnees in Chad and the Central African Republic, while returning migrants in Ethiopia are under a separate IOM plan.[20]
- In South Sudan, returnees are now under the OCHA-coordinated 2024 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan.
- Finally, the plan foresees a relatively smaller number of third country nationals arriving in Chad, the Central African Republic, Egypt and South Sudan.
- Throughout the plan, refugee figures are cumulative, while the figures for returnees and third country nationals include only those projected to arrive in 2024.

The 2024 RRP has a focus on resilience programming and engaging development actors in the response. The receiving countries have, for the most part, opened their borders to those seeking safety: these countries need international support to sustain this generosity and fulfilment of international obligations, including from development actors, to accompany the humanitarian response with investments to strengthen infrastructure, basic services and socioeconomic inclusion for refugees, returnees and host communities in integrated settlements and in areas of return.

The population to be assisted by the 82 partners to the 2024 Sudan RRP is close to 2.7 million refugees, returnees, third country nationals and local host communities (up from 1.8 million refugees, returnees and third country nationals planned in 2023), with a financial ask of USD 1.4 billion. However, as the situation remains fluid, the RRP will be revised as required and the inter-agency response adapted in line with developments in the context and needs.

Since the onset of the conflict in Sudan, a small number of Sudanese refugees have been arriving in Uganda, with the numbers steadily increasing over the course of 2023. As of January 2024, some 15,000 new arrivals from Sudan have been received in the country. Most of them have chosen to stay in the city of Kampala (12,697) while a smaller number (2,263) have been registered in the settlements in the Northern Region. The Government of Uganda is providing prima facie refugee recognition to asylum-seekers from Sudan. As of January 2024, the Government requires all Sudanese refugee registration to take place in the Kiryandongo settlement, and those refugees seeking assistance may settle there. Kiryandongo settlement was established in the 1990s and predominately hosts South Sudanese refugees. While there is not a separate chapter or budget from partners for the response in Uganda in the RRP, responding to the new arrivals requires additional capacity, including re-establishing reception facilities, logistical support for relocations, enhancing registration services, core relief

[15] https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/105508
[16] https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-eight-months-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-15-december-2023
[17] https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-eight-months-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-15-december-2023
[18] https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-eight-months-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-15-december-2023
[19] https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-eight-months-conflict-key-facts-and-figures-15-december-2023
[20] There are 18,000 Ethiopian migrant returnees and 5,000 third country nationals in Ethiopia who are not included in this RRP; they are reflected in the IOM Response Overview for the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries.

items, and hot meals, as well as enhancing access to essential services, including health care, water, and sanitation services.

Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs

In 2024, if the fighting expands to Sudan's eastern, southern and northern territories, this will bring additional suffering, primary and secondary displacement to areas of the country that have remained relatively less affected by the conflict to date, and possible implications for the presence of UN and NGO actors present in Port Sudan. Other non-state armed groups may expand operations by joining the main parties to the conflict based on political and ethnic allegiances, spreading violence further. The effects of indiscriminate attacks on civilian infrastructure, especially in urban areas, and the proliferation of criminality as a result of the breakdown of law and order may continue and will have a long-term impact on the country's capacity to recover and provide effective protection as well as social and economic services for the population.

Humanitarian access and space will continue to be major challenges, posing risks to the safe movement of displaced communities in search of safety and constraining the delivery of life-saving services. These factors, coupled with the economic fallout, will continue to determine high levels of internal displacement, the outflow of refugees and returnees (both migrant and refugee), and the secondary movement of refugees within Sudan.

The impact of the conflict beyond Sudan's borders, such as the disruption of existing trade and supply chains, inflation, and the growing cost of the humanitarian response, are creating increased hardship for vulnerable host communities, aggravating existing economic and food insecurity challenges. This situation risks fuelling tensions between refugees and host populations through disputes over scarce resources. Neighbouring countries were already hosting large refugee, migrant and internally displaced populations before the crisis. The Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan together hosted at least 800,000 Sudanese refugees before 15 April 2023. The new refugee arrivals to Chad add to the more than 400,000 Sudanese refugees who have been living in a protracted displacement situation in eastern Chad for some 20 years. In addition, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan also have internally displaced populations. In South Sudan, an estimated 76 per cent of the population were already in need of humanitarian assistance, in addition to more than 290,000 Sudanese who arrived before April 2023. In Ethiopia, more than 20 million people need humanitarian assistance, in addition to almost 50,000 Sudanese refugees who arrived before April 2023. Egypt has historically hosted many Sudanese and has had the second-highest number of Sudanese refugee arrivals in 2023. While most receiving countries have maintained open door policies, as arrivals continue, there may be a risk in certain countries of increased restrictions on entry. Most new arrivals continue to enter neighbouring countries through remote border locations, where humanitarian partners strive to provide critical life-saving assistance and facilitate onward movement in extremely difficult conditions and requiring extensive logistical arrangements. People are being assisted in moving onward to either camps - where there is no viable alternative - or settlements for refugees integrated in host communities, and to places of preferred destination for returnees. In 2023, humanitarian actors primarily focused on establishing systems and procedures for delivering assistance, including protection, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), mitigating the manifestation of disease. New arrivals were often in an extremely vulnerable state, requiring higher levels of assistance, access to basic services and protection interventions for individuals and groups at heightened risk. Food security was and remains a top priority as were shelter and housing needs.

The priority to better identify risks and needs and better protect and assist those fleeing requires the registration of new arrivals, the identification of individuals at heightened risk through registration or community-based mechanisms, and their referral to appropriate and specialized support. This includes children at risk, particularly unaccompanied and separated children, individuals in a critical medical condition, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), older people, people with disabilities, single women, female-headed households and other individuals with specific protection needs. These individuals need specialized assistance and protection through individual case management as well as through broader community-based protection interventions. Families continue to be separated as they flee, giving rise to many unaccompanied and separated children requiring family tracing and alternative care arrangements. Best Interests Procedures and psychosocial support for children at risk need to be expanded. The trauma experienced makes it imperative that psychosocial support for children and caregivers is available and that community-based mechanisms are established to support well-being initiatives at community level, two-way communication and information provision on available services, identification of children at risk, and referrals to specialized service.

Many refugees and returnees arrive in hosting countries as survivors of horrific GBV incidents, often in a distressed state. Efforts need to be expanded to ensure that prevention mechanisms, mitigating the risk and responding to GBV are established and expanded. Also important are interventions to address risks of trafficking

and sexual exploitation and abuse with specialized services and referral mechanisms to be reinforced to respond to the needs of displaced women and girls who are most at risk of GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse.

The conflict in Sudan has had a devastating impact on the national health system and has resulted in poor capacity to respond to the population's health needs, including refugees. This has been observed in the deteriorating national health indicators and a reported spike in preventable deaths and mortalities among the Sudanese and refugee populations. Outbreaks that have affected the country include measles, dengue and the most recent cholera outbreak, exceeding 5,000 cases in November 2023, for which the death rate is much higher than the threshold (3.2 per cent case fatality rate). These outbreaks also pose risks to neighbouring countries, with Ethiopia reporting a cholera outbreak in the Kumer refugee settlement in August 2023 among new arrivals, and South Sudan reporting its first cholera case in Renk in December. This situation may also create implications for the overall protection environment with countries which may consider restricting population movement and re-evaluate the open-door policies maintained so far.

The nutrition situation of refugees in Sudan is expected to worsen with the introduction of a 50 per cent food ration cut as of January 2024 due to funding shortfalls (already the case in South Sudan and Ethiopia in 2023, with the response in Chad facing a pipeline break for refugee food rations as early as February or March 2024 under the current funding scenario). With alarming levels of global acute malnutrition in multiple states in Sudan, both refugees and returnees arriving from Sudan are increasingly likely to arrive in a poor nutritional state and continue to suffer from lack of food security in countries of asylum or return, leading to harmful coping strategies.

The ongoing crisis in Sudan and its impact on neighbouring countries has highlighted the challenges for education systems to respond to emergencies. In Sudan, the government can no longer ensure the regular and timely payment of teacher salaries, even in states unaffected by the conflict. The delay in reopening schools is further compounded by the destruction of education facilities or their occupation by internally displaced people and by the displacement of teachers. Host countries are struggling with their own challenges to provide education to all national students, with high out-of-school rates, often leaving little space and capacity to enrol Sudanese refugee children who have already lost several months of school. So far, the education response in host countries has been limited in scope, focusing on the educational needs of new arrivals, hampered by lack of funding, and unable to address the pre-crisis low enrolment rates for Sudanese refugee children. Some of the gaps apply equally to refugees and nationals, namely insufficient teacher workforce both in terms of number and qualifications as well as inadequate school facilities. In addition, refugee students may have unique needs linked to teaching language and curriculum support to transition from the home to the host country system, and the need for psychosocial support to resume healthy development and learning. In 2024, over one million Sudanese refugee children in the asylum countries will need education. If the levels of funding cannot support the activities beyond what was achieved in 2023, 80 per cent of these children risk remaining out of school.

In many locations, shelter and WASH facilities and services are inadequate to respond to the growing needs of the new refugee population, and more is needed to improve the existing sites, establish new ones or continue to integrate refugees in existing hosting settlements. For example, in Ethiopia, at the Metema transit centre and Kumer settlement in the Amhara region hosting 20,000 refugees, WASH services fall significantly below the standard with only one latrine available per 100 people. Moreover, the daily water allowance per person is also below standard. Lack of adequate services, especially WASH, significantly increases the risk of diseases and may aggravate protection risks, particularly for women and girls.

Like refugees, migrant returnees are arriving in vulnerable conditions, may not immediately enjoy the support of their national States, and require humanitarian and protection assistance upon arrival, as well as onward movement assistance. Third country nationals may wish to return to their countries of origin. However, they often face challenges linked to the availability and accessibility of information, consular services, proper documentation, transportation means and conditions for dignified return and reintegration in their countries of origin. IOM is the lead agency supporting migrant returnees and third country nationals who do not have international protection needs, together with government counterparts, ensuring complementarity across the response. UNHCR and IOM are working side by side at several border crossings to help all people fleeing Sudan, identify the different population groups leaving the country, register those in need of international protection, and identify those in situations of vulnerability.

Even as needs multiply, humanitarian programmes in these countries remain chronically underfunded and hosting countries need international support to sustain their generosity and to be able to fulfil their international obligations. The 2023 RRP was just 38 per cent funded, while needs have increased for 2024 as a consequence of the conflict raging in many parts of Sudan triggering large movements across borders.

Part 2: Regional Strategic Objectives and Priorities

In support of government-led efforts, the 2024 Regional RRP will contribute to: (i) maintaining the capacity to respond to new emergency situations/influxes requiring immediate humanitarian support; and (ii) increasingly support building resilience, strengthening social cohesion and promoting recovery in the areas most impacted by the presence of refugees, contributing to reduce fragility.

To mitigate and address urgent protection and assistance needs, partners will continue to include lifesaving and emergency humanitarian activities such as registration, provision of emergency shelter and core relief items, facilitating access to essential health and nutrition services, support to host countries to ensure access to territory and asylum for all individuals in need of international protection and support to vulnerable people including those with disabilities. The provision of specialized protection services to individuals at heightened risk, including unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk, and other individuals at risk of neglect, abuse and exploitation, will continue. Services to respond to survivors of GBV will continue to be scaled up. In certain contexts, the relocation from fragile and insecure border areas to safer sites, in consultation with concerned governments, remains a priority despite the huge logistical challenges.

The 2024 plan also introduces a deliberate and important shift in the regional response towards resilience-oriented interventions – with a focus on national systems strengthening and promoting livelihood opportunities. The RRP prioritizes self-sustaining nationally and locally owned processes and models, basing interventions on a joint RRP partner-government assessment of refugee and host community needs to address root causes and vulnerabilities as well as the immediate devastating impacts of the ongoing refugee crisis. The plan will support the capacity of communities and institutions to extend services and assistance to refugees, which will help to avoid overstretching of resources. Sector interventions will prioritize strengthening resilience from the start at national, local and individual levels. Sector partners' engagement will aim to achieve the structural transformations needed to address the underlying and root causes of protracted crises and fragility, strengthen social cohesion and promote risk-informed, resilient recovery for the furthest behind, leading to more sustainable pathways from fragility.

As set out in the Global Compact on Refugees, this RRP also continues to pursue a "whole-of-society" approach designed to support the host governments in leading the response. It builds on the capacities of the refugees and returnees themselves and supports the communities acting as first responders. The shift towards resilience will also involve concerted efforts to engage development partners in complementary interventions through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, including planning for and supporting the medium and long-term inclusion of refugees in national social services across sectors and in local economies. It considers that in many locations, the capacity to respond is already overstretched as refugees and migrants are arriving in remote areas, where food insecurity is high and existing services and infrastructure are minimal or non-existent.

Regional Strategic Objectives

SO1: Support host countries to ensure access to territory and asylum for all individuals in need of international protection, in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement and other international obligations, including maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum.

SO2: Support host countries to provide timely and life-saving protection and humanitarian assistance for those fleeing Sudan, with a specific focus on identifying protection risks and supporting those at heightened risk and in need of specialized protection interventions and other services.

SO3: Support host countries to strengthen resilience so that those fleeing Sudan are included in national systems and services, particularly in health, education and market systems, and are able to live in integrated settlements and have access to economic opportunities on par with nationals.

SO4: Support neighbouring countries to ensure access to their territory for third country nationals and assist, in close coordination with embassies and consulates, third country nationals with immigration procedures and in contacting respective consular authorities to enable them to return home to their respective countries of origin.

Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)

RRP partners will ensure that refugee, returnee, third-country nationals, and host community needs are identified and addressed through interventions that are designed, implemented and monitored through rights-based, community- based and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approaches. The AGD approach analyses and addresses vulnerabilities by using participatory methodologies to incorporate the views, capacities and priorities of women, men, girls and boys of diverse backgrounds into protection, assistance and solutions programming. It also encompasses the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by age, sex and disability, and other diverse characteristics, where contextually appropriate and possible, to inform programme design, monitoring and reporting and to support equitable access. Aligned with the commitment to accountability to affected people (AAP), elaborated below, partners will actively engage communities in planning, implementation, and evaluation of the response by consulting, listening to, and acting on feedback from and based on the priorities of women, girls, boys, and men, and other marginalized and at-risk people among affected communities. RRP partners will also strengthen assistance monitoring using AGD data disaggregated approaches to identify gaps in the response and adjust their interventions as needed.

Disability Inclusion

Individuals with disabilities make up an estimated 16 per cent of any population (WHO estimates), with higher numbers expected in situations of conflict-induced forced displacement. According to global estimates, the prevalence of disability is often higher among women. People with disabilities, including children, face additional barriers that prevent equal access in WASH, health and nutrition, protection, social protection and education. They face higher levels of poverty on average and are likely to be among those who experience the worst effects of a crisis.

RRP partners will invest in evidence-based, multi-level strategies such as social and behavioural change and inclusive education to promote policies so that the disability status of refugees and returnees is highlighted at registration—this will include building capacity of humanitarian and other authorities at registration points, to better detect disabilities. Sessions will continue to be organized for partners on disability inclusion programming, aiming to bring meaningful interventions and create a disability-sensitive culture. Partners are also working to break down the additional barriers that prevent equal access to assistance and services for people with disabilities and are ensuring a disability-inclusive approach in the various sectors of this response. Close cooperation will also be sought with national and local organizations representing and working with people with disabilities.

Youth

The unique needs and aspirations of young people within the refugee and returnee populations are included in the response. Recognizing the pivotal role that young people play in shaping the future, the response plan seeks to provide targeted interventions that empower youth through education, skills-building, and vocational training programmes. By prioritizing youth-centric initiatives, the plan aims to enhance their resilience and promote a sense of purpose, enabling them to actively contribute to refugee camps and settlements' social and economic development. Additionally, the RRP emphasizes fostering a supportive environment that encourages youth participation in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and valued. Through these comprehensive efforts, RRP partners will endeavour to meet the immediate needs of youth and invest in their long-term well-being, promoting a foundation for sustainable development and positive community engagement.

Older People

An estimated 6 per cent of forcibly displaced people are older people. Older people may face challenges due to limited mobility and low resources when fleeing from violence. They often lack the documentation required to cross borders, lose family and community support, or acquire caring responsibilities for children separated from their parents. RRP partners will consider specific assistance for age-related needs of older people and targeted support to overcome barriers in accessing services and assistance, also relying on community-based and volunteer interventions.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

Programming decisions and actions will respond to the expressed priorities, needs, capacities and views of all refugees, returnees and others involved in this plan. RRP partners will continue to ensure that people addressed by the response have equitable and non-discriminatory access to protection services, assistance and solutions. Refugees, returnees, third country nationals and host communities will continue to be actively involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the response throughout the programme cycle.

The response will also ensure that a range of inclusive, accessible and rapid channels of two-way communication, including complaints and feedback mechanisms, are reinforced at points of entry, transit centres, around distributions, and at service provision points. They will be based on communication assessments, considering language preferences, child-friendly approaches, and different country contexts and capabilities, with increased attention to the benefit of digital systems. Such systems will continue to be used to inform new arrivals about procedures and processes that affect them, so that they are able to make informed decisions. Channels of communication will include, among others, helplines, suggestion and complaint boxes, SMS groups and social media platforms, with safeguards for confidential complaints.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Risks of sexual exploitation and abuse are particularly heightened in an emergency displacement situation due to multiple factors, such as the lack of awareness by refugees and returnees about their rights and entitlements in an unfamiliar environment, disruption to livelihoods, family separation, breakdown of protective institutions and networks, and rapid and massive scale-up of recruitments and deployment of personnel from a wide array of organizations.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is, therefore, an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response for refugees, returnees and third-country nationals from Sudan. Inter-agency PSEA Networks will coordinate collective efforts and action for prevention and risk mitigation of sexual exploitation and abuse among all partners involved in the response. Community engagement and awareness-raising on PSEA will be strengthened using diverse channels that are adapted to the local context and accessible for women, men, girls and boys of diverse backgrounds. Systematic integration of key PSEA messages in information campaigns for new arrivals and multisectoral service delivery will be enhanced to ensure that affected communities are aware of their rights and entitlements, how to access services, what sexual exploitation and abuse is, and how to report any related concerns.

PSEA training and awareness-raising will be enhanced and conducted with all personnel, contractors, community workers and volunteers, and others involved in the response. Sexual exploitation and abuse risk assessments will be undertaken where they have not already been conducted to identify high-risk areas and inform measures to mitigate risks across multisectoral programmes. Through collaboration with AAP coordination structures, complaints and feedback mechanisms will be strengthened to ensure that they are accessible and can safely receive and refer any complaints for follow-up. PSEA Networks will also ensure coordination so that victims have access to support through existing inter-agency GBV and child protection referral pathways, in line with a victim-centred approach.

Localization

Meaningful engagement of local organizations, including grassroots organizations, is critical in informing the response and in shaping efforts to find more predictable and inclusive solutions to the plight of refugees. Such structures have often shown how they may be the first and most effective respondents in constrained situations. UN agencies and NGOs, among others, made a commitment at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 “to empower national and local humanitarian action”, and to work towards greater localization. The New York Declaration and the Global Compact on Refugees both emphasize the importance of engaging directly with forcibly displaced people.

National and local partner engagement in the response has increased from 20 per cent in 2023 to one third of the 2024 Sudan Regional RRP partners being national NGOs, local refugee-led organizations (RLOs), women-led organizations (WLOs) and local faith-based organizations. Not only are many of them directly appealing partners in the plan but some others are funded directly by appealing partners in the response. National and local actors, including RLOs and WLOs, will be supported to identify, design and implement interventions that address the challenges refugees and returnees face, including through more agile forms of financial support. This will include strengthening their capacity on project management, accountability and transparency as needed. RRP partners will continue to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including regional and local governments, through a whole-of-society approach.

Climate Action

RRP partners working on the refugee response will strengthen efforts to make their programming climate-smart and environmentally sound. Refugees and asylum-seekers face heightened vulnerabilities in the context of changing climate patterns, including risks of extreme weather events and resource scarcity. In response, partners aim to incorporate climate-resilient measures in infrastructure development, resource management, and livelihood support. By adopting sustainable practices, such as renewable energy solutions and environmentally conscious initiatives, the response plan seeks to minimize its ecological footprint and contribute to broader climate mitigation efforts. Scaling-up of activities that protect both people and the environment, such as clean cooking and solar energy interventions, are on-going in RRP countries. In addition, partners will analyse climate and environmental risks, and will undertake mitigation measures relevant to the context.

Cash Assistance

RRP partners will provide cash assistance as part of the emergency response to save lives and relieve suffering, to contribute to protection and solutions outcomes and to maximize efficiency, effectiveness, and impact in programme delivery. Cash assistance is a vital tool to address displaced populations' immediate needs while optimizing dignity and choice for people and cost efficiency. Unrestricted multipurpose cash grants allow refugees, returnees and asylum-seekers to have greater flexibility to make choices that best suit their unique circumstances, whether for securing food, shelter, or other necessities. This approach empowers individuals by respecting their autonomy and dignity and significantly reduces the logistical costs and burden of RRP partners to procure and distribute in-kind aid. Cash assistance expedites the delivery of aid and stimulates local market and community cohesion, supporting economic activities within and around refugee sites and settlements and strengthening supply chain routes.

RRP partners have already been delivering cash assistance in the hosting countries. Based on context specificities in the affected countries, and through a coordinated dialogue also involving protection actors, an expansion of cash assistance will build on cash feasibility including, risk assessments, response analysis, available delivery arrangements, sexual exploitation and abuse risk assessments, partnerships and contracting of financial service providers available to provide rapid cash assistance. Rapid post-distribution monitoring will allow for programme adjustment, if needed.

Regional Partnerships and Coordination

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, the RRP will support host countries in the region to lead and coordinate the response to those fleeing the conflict in Sudan. Following the Refugee Coordination Model, it has been developed and will be implemented in close collaboration with 82 inter-agency partners and other stakeholders, including UN agencies, national societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, national and international non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations and other civil society actors. The RRP builds on the collective and coordinated work already being done in these countries and outlines the multisectoral response strategy and financial requirements of partners operating in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan, to provide protection services and urgent humanitarian assistance as well as prioritize efforts to build resilience of refugees, returnees and third country nationals, and impacted host communities.

Coordination mechanisms have been strengthened with the set-up of specific inter-agency refugee coordination fora that agree on response strategies, steer the implementation of the response and ensure information sharing with all partners. This enables RRP partners to work efficiently together to maximize the response, avoid duplications and better link up to existing longer-term coordination mechanisms to encourage development actors to be part of the response as soon as possible.

As the UN agency mandated by the General Assembly to lead refugee responses, UNHCR is the reference point on refugee and refugee returnee data, facilitating and coordinating the provision of necessary data and information to support RRP partners' response planning. Close collaboration is maintained with IOM who coordinate the response to the needs of migrant returnees and third country nationals.

As outlined in the Refugee Coordination Model, for the response to the Sudan emergency, together with government counterparts, UNHCR leads or co-leads refugee coordination structures that include high-level refugee coordination fora and sectoral as well as cross-sectoral working groups at the country level in the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan on protection (with Sub-sectors for child protection and GBV), WASH, public health and nutrition, shelter, settlements and housing, food security, livelihoods and economic inclusion, humanitarian transportation, PSEA and others depending on the country context. Throughout the response, UNHCR will ensure that joint assessments, monitoring and reporting on progress and communication and information-sharing tools are put in place in coordination with governments and RRP partners.

Recognizing the importance of the principle of leaving no one behind, UNHCR will closely coordinate with IOM in the response to migrant returnees and third country nationals in all countries involved in this Regional RRP. Importantly also, the Offices of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators work closely with RRP partners to enhance synergies and complementarities among UN agencies as well as NGO partners and will work to ensure collective outcomes as outlined in this plan, in a complementary fashion with UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

Stakeholders' participation in the inter-agency plans, humanitarian country teams and other coordination mechanisms will be supported and reinforced with reports on achievements, experiences, challenges and lessons learned linked to the refugee response. The harmonization and coordination of different interventions is essential to maximize benefits for the people assisted through this plan. Through the framework of the RRP, UNHCR and partners will provide regular updates to donors and key stakeholders.

The Regional RRP is guided by the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees to promote solutions and inclusion from the outset of the refugee emergency. Humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors will continue to work together to strengthen engagement and complementarities in this refugee crisis. Effective coordination with development partners will help facilitate the search for solutions for the refugees and refugee returnees fleeing Sudan and foster self-reliance and socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and returnees by easing the pressure on host communities and supporting host governments in their response. Partners are exploring support from development actors in terms of development needs assessments; expansion of education and vocational training; health, water and sanitation services; access to electricity; and capacity-building for local governments and municipalities. Development partners can offer their existing knowledge and experience working in these countries and potentially expand their support to existing programmes to include refugees and returnees, as well as to advocate for inclusion of refugees in national systems and services.

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

The regional ramifications of the Sudanese emergency are extensive. Neighbouring countries were already hosting large number of displaced people before the crisis and struggling with severely underfunded humanitarian programmes. Nevertheless, these countries have opened their borders to those seeking safety. To put this generosity in perspective, in 2023, Chad for example, has hosted more refugees than it has in the past 20 years.

Already impoverished communities at the border are the first responders to this crisis. Development investments are urgently needed to strengthen national systems, such as health and education, for refugees, returnees and hosts, to avoid the creation of parallel and unsustainable refugee response models.

Development partners can prevent further fragility and anticipate potential drivers of conflict and secondary displacement by consolidating peace gains and stabilizing local economies, which have experienced massive demographic and economic shocks due to the conflict.

Areas affected by conflict and fragility should be prioritized in the response. Forced displacement presents a major development challenge on the African continent. Economic development will be set back by the conflict in Sudan and its regional implications unless early action is taken by development partners.

Such early investments to support the security and stability in the region will ultimately advance the search for durable solutions outcomes.

Call to Action on Early Development Action in the Response to the Sudan Emergency

During a dedicated side event at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in 2023, UNHCR issued a call to action to development partners to engage in the response to the Sudan crisis:

1. Development actors are invited to leverage greater technical and financial capacity to support inclusive settlement approaches, by bolstering national public systems in areas that have been impacted by the Sudan crisis, thereby facilitating the inclusion of refugees to access such services. Supporting an inclusion agenda from the onset of the crisis can help prevent the establishment of unsustainable parallel systems of assistance.

2. Development actors can support host governments with data and planning to facilitate the inclusion of displaced people in sectors such as education, health, justice, social welfare and civil registration, as well as on budget support to cover recurrent costs, such as teacher and health worker salaries.

3. Development actors and the private sector are encouraged to leverage their comparative advantages in creating market and employment opportunities in order to avoid dependence on humanitarian aid and promote self-reliance. Joint advocacy for the removal of policy and other barriers is a key priority to allow for economic inclusion.

4. Development actors are invited to review their portfolios of interventions to include returnee populations, in order to ensure that returnees are able to access services and live self-sufficiently. Stronger engagement is needed on issues that are crucial for voluntary and safe return such as the scaling up of public services, livelihoods and economic opportunities, and access to justice.

Regional Monitoring Framework

A list of 23 common indicators selected across countries and across sectors, will assist partners to monitor the progress made under the RRP. Please refer to Annex 2 for details.

Central African Republic
Country Chapter

Sudanese refugees seek refuge during a sandstorm in Am Dafock, in the Central African Republic. Some 25,000 people have arrived in the country from Sudan. They have largely settled in spontaneous sites along the border areas, with some managing to be hosted by families or in one of the newly established sites in Vakaga. Arrivals continue to be reported at Am Dafock, the main entry point for Sudanese refugees.

AT A GLANCE

CAR Planned Response

January-December 2024

40 K
Refugees

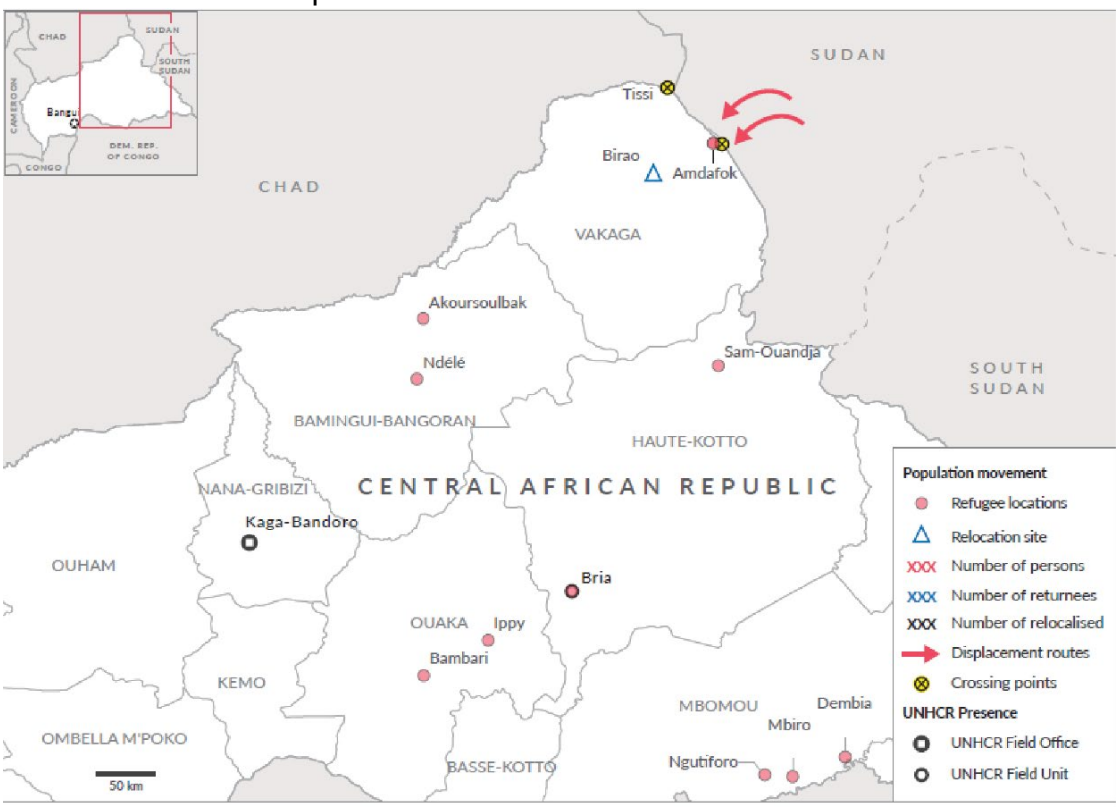
3.3 K[21]
Returnees

100
Third Country Nationals

28 K
Host Community

USD
46.2 M
Total financial requirements

10
RRP Partners



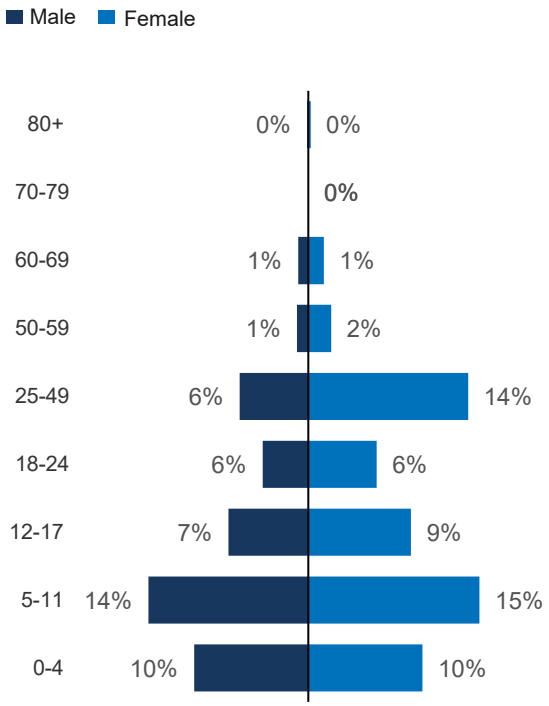
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
Sources : UNHCR, Central African Republic Gouvernement

[21] *This figure includes refugee returnees and migrant returnees.*

Population Planning Figures

Country	Sudanese refugees pre-15 April 2023	New Arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Refugee Population	482	21,135	39,876[22]
Returnees		4,701	3,300
Third Country Nationals		0	100
Host Community			27,900
Total projected population in need			**71,176**

Age and gender breakdown



16%
People with disabilities

58%
Women and girls

42%
Men and boys

65%
Children

[22] *An estimated 20,000 new Sudanese refugees are expected to arrive in the Central African Republic in 2024. Before the crisis in April 2023, CAR was already hosting 482 Sudanese refugees. With the crisis, and considering the revised 2023 RRP, the estimate increased to a total of 15,000 refugees. However, by the time the 2024 RRP was prepared, CAR had already hosted more than the projected 15,000 refugees. Taking all of these elements into account, the planning figure for assistance in early November for the 2024 RRP was set at 39,876 people, including the expected 20,000 new arrivals in 2024, residents prior to the April influx, and those not previously accounted for.*

MID-YEAR UPDATE

Highlights

The Central African Republic has continued to receive new arrivals from Sudan in Mbomou/Rafai, Bamingui-Bangoran Haute-Kotto and Ouaka prefectures. UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR), along with local authorities, deployed teams for pre-registration to ensure some form of documentation of the new arrivals. However, security remains a key concern in the areas of influx, with significant protection and security incidents due to the presence of various non-state armed groups.

So far this year, 8,972 new arrivals were registered in Korsi, Vakaga prefecture (of which 609 were previously registered in Am Dafock at the border in 2023). Registration is ongoing by UNHCR and the CNR for an estimated 3,500 Sudanese in Haute-Kotto prefecture (Sam-Ouandja and Bria).

Since the conflict began in April 2023, a total of 32,070 forcibly displaced people from Sudan have arrived in the Central African Republic, including 25,912 Sudanese refugees and 6,158 Central African returnees. Some 16,968 (6,764 households) Sudanese refugees have been biometrically registered and live in 13 mostly hard-to-reach localities and need protection and assistance.

Consequences of underfunding

As of June, the response in the Central African Republic is just 10 per cent funded.

The lack of funding, along with access challenges to some areas of arrival of Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic has left 24,000 refugees without essential protection, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), healthcare, education, and food services. The severe underfunding has serious consequences:

- In the Korsi refugee settlement, the water supply is only 12 litres per person per day, far below the post-emergency standard of 20 litres, and over 140 people share a single toilet/shower.
- Ongoing registration of refugees is impacted, lack of documentation increases the risks of refoulement, extortion, restricted movement, and possibly, statelessness.
- The lack of adequate WASH facilities increases the risk of disease outbreaks, such as cholera and other diarrheal illnesses, as refugees resort to contaminated water sources. Conflicts over water points put women and children at particular risk of harm, as well as heatstroke due to high temperatures.
- Without sufficient financial support, RRP partners cannot provide essential services, increasing humanitarian needs and leading to potential conflicts with host communities over scarce resources. The cost of inaction is the deterioration of already dire conditions and increased refugee risks.

Priority needs

The most urgent needs for Sudanese refugees in Korsi and other locations are emergency shelters as those provided last year in Korsi are on the verge of collapse, especially as the rainy season starts. This puts refugees at significant risk due to heavy rainfall and flash floods. Seasonal flooding is a recurring issue that affects large parts of the Central African Republic, threatening both local communities and refugee populations. Refugees, already vulnerable, face heightened risks from these natural disasters, including loss of shelter and essential core relief items (CRIs). Immediate funding is needed to provide life-saving shelter and CRIs, crucial for protecting flood-affected refugees' health, security, privacy, and dignity. Flooding also increases the risk of infection and disease outbreaks, primarily due to the contamination of drinking water facilities. Immediate funding is crucial to ensure clean water and proper sanitation facilities, thereby minimizing the risk of waterborne diseases and protecting public health.

Refugees without adequate shelter are more vulnerable to health and safety risks, physical harm, exploitation, and abuse. The lack of privacy and security in temporary shelters further exacerbates these risks, especially for women and children. To prevent the recurrence of these challenges, there is an urgent need to transition from temporary to sustainable shelter solutions. This will provide immediate relief and enhance refugee communities' long-term resilience against climate and environmental threats.

Without immediate funding and support, the humanitarian needs of refugees will continue to escalate.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

The ongoing violence in south Darfur in Sudan continues to affect the remote northern region of the Central African Republic bordering Sudan. During the first six months of the crisis, Sudanese refugees were entering through Vakaga district at one entry point at Am Dafock, a border town. After relocation, they were concentrated in the town of Birao where the refugee site Korsi was established. However, as the situation has evolved, and the crisis in Sudan worsened, Sudanese refugees began arriving in the country through additional entry points and have settled in four additional areas around Ndelé and Akoursoulbak towns in the Bamingui Mbagoran district, around Bambari town in the Ouaka district, in Ouandja Kotto town in Haute Kotto district and near Rafai axis in Mbomou district. The Government of the Central African Republic has maintained a favourable border policy regime, granting access to territory to all people fleeing the conflict. On 19 August, the Government signed a decree granting refugee status on a prima facie basis to all Sudanese nationals who fled the violence in their country since April 2023. Also, a significant number of Sudanese who had arrived in the country during the transhumance period expressed fear of going back to Sudan and were recognized as refugees "sur place".

As of 31 December 2023, a total of 25,836 people has arrived in the Central African Republic from Sudan. This includes 21,135 Sudanese refugees, surpassing the initial 2023 RRP planning figures and 4,701 Central African returnees, 88 per cent of whom are women and children according to the registration data. As of 31 December 2023, 10,614 Sudanese refugees (3,632 households) were biometrically registered. The newly arrived population largely settled in spontaneous sites along the border or near villages in the interior of the country, with fewer managing to be hosted by families or the newly established Korsi neighbourhood in Vakaga district, in the northeast.

Given the fragile security situation at the border and limited accessibility, a plan was developed for the voluntary relocation of refugees to safer areas in line with the provisions of the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention. The Central African authorities identified Korsi, located in Birao, a town some 60 km from Am Dafock, where access to services and assistance would be provided. The relocation process began mid-May 2023 just before the start of the rainy season. A relocation awareness campaign was held to sensitize refugees and host communities to the importance of the exercise.

Since the beginning of the emergency, 2,425 people (1,235 households) have been relocated to Korsi the integrated settlement (refugees and host communities), with land allocated by authorities as an extension of the urban area, where biometric registration is ongoing, and assistance is being provided both to refugees and host communities. UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés (CNR) are strengthening monitoring and registration mechanisms for new arrivals at the site. The assisted relocation to Korsi was suspended in June with the onset of the rainy season as roads became impassable. Nevertheless, refugees have continued to travel at the site independently in search of safety, protection and assistance.

As part of the emergency response launched in May 2023, UNHCR and RRP partners have accelerated assistance to meet the most urgent protection needs, including registration, documentation, and providing food, shelter, core relief items, health services, water, and sanitation. Since the beginning of the response to the crisis, 495 people with special needs have been identified, including unaccompanied and separated children, and women and men in need of protection. Between June and October 2023, a total of 405 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) were received at survivor-centred GBV centres, documented and assisted, including five people with disabilities. Some 30 per cent of the cases were Sudanese refugees. Two listening centres[23] and two safe spaces[24] were established in Birao as GBV care and prevention services, and risk mitigation strategies including psychological support for those in need. In collaboration with national and local authorities, RRP partners will continue to implement a coordinated emergency response in 2024, focusing on immediate life-saving activities and the relocation of new arrivals in Am Dafock to Korsi in Birao.

While the existing humanitarian presence in Vakaga district is limited to a few organizations, in part due to difficult access and logistics, UNHCR established an office in Birao in May 2023 and also deployed missions to other districts where refugees are settled in order to strengthen the coordination and response to the crisis. Other RRP partners are also strengthening their capacity to support the response. As the unrest and violence in Sudan continues to escalate, continued international support is essential to address the evolving humanitarian crisis. RRP partners are preparing for approximately 23,400 people to arrive in 2024. This includes 20,000 Sudanese refugees (in addition to the refugees pre-registered in 2023), 3,000 Central African Republic refugee returnees, and 400

[23] A physical space that provides psychosocial support to survivors of GBV and is managed by trained caseworkers. This space provides confidentiality and security, and hosts both individual therapy and group therapy sessions for survivors of GBV. It is seen as a starting point for care before referral to specialized services when appropriate. In the Central African Republic, the Listening Centres are established in the district hospital and at the Korsi site.

[24] A physical space that offers activities for women and girls and is managed by trained community volunteers. Activities may include cultural events, crafts and trades classes, and trainings on topics such as menstrual hygiene management, mitigation of risks of GBV, and mental health and psychosocial support.

returnee migrants and third country nationals. Additionally, humanitarian partners plan to support 27,900 members of host communities in refugee reception areas.

Country Risks and Needs

A number of risks continue to be priorities in 2024 as RRP partners plan, implement and monitor the emergency response activities to ensure protection and access to basic services for Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic. Beginning at the border, and continuing to structured and spontaneous settlements, actors will mitigate and respond to different risks related to security, GBV, and child protection to ensure a protective environment for women, girls, boys, and men.

Since the beginning of the influx, the security situation in the Am Dafock border area has remained extremely volatile. According to regular protection monitoring activities conducted by RRP partners (including *Project 21*[25] initiative), new arrivals at Am Dafock and other locations report that security remains a paramount risk and is their main concern, particularly considering the overwhelming presence of women and children (88 per cent) among the arrivals, including unaccompanied and separated children. As of 31 December 2023, a significant number of individuals were still residing in insecure border areas and moving back and forth between the two countries. This poses a serious protection risk to the population and could elevate increase the risk of conflict spilling over the border into the Central African Republic. A second risk associated with presence of refugees at the border is the potential for tension with the host - community. The town of Am Dafok is home to some 14,000 residents' people whose few existing water, health, education, and security services are already stretched thin due to the lack of resources, infrastructure and difficult accessibility. A key need in 2024 is to ensure that refugees are relocated to secure safe locations away from the border. Even after arriving at a spontaneous settlement or the established Korsi site, refugees are at risk of insecurity due to the high prevalence of non-state armed groups throughout the Central African Republic.

During war, displacement, and integration in a new location, women and girls can be at heightened risk of GBV. In the Central African Republic, 59 per cent of new arrivals are women and girls, and half of them are under 18 years old. Reports of GBV against women and girls fleeing Sudan have been reported[26] across Sudan and in particular in the Darfur regions.[27] Upon arriving in the Central African Republic, women and girls continue to be at risk of GBV, particularly if in conditions of limited resources or if forced to travel far distances for water or firewood. Both the crisis and the lack of protection and health services across the country exposes women and girls to an increased risk of GBV, including sexual violence, exploitation, and early/forced marriages. Specialized services for survivors of gender-based violence need to be established in refugee-hosting areas to provide support to survivors as well as to lead community-based awareness raising campaigns in collaboration with the local authorities. GBV risk mitigation measures need to be streamlined across other sectors including shelter, WASH, health and education.

Children, both boys and girls, face several unique risks including exploitation, abuse, GBV, early/forced marriage and recruitment into armed groups. Across the border the prevalence of child marriage is high where 72 per cent of women are married before the age of 18 in north Darfur, 80 per cent in South Darfur.[28] In the Central African Republic, 61 per cent of girls are married before the age of 18 and 28 per cent of boys are also married before turning 18.[29] These practices constitute a heightened risk for refugee girls whose families are under additional pressure during the displacement. Boys, too, face heightened risk as they may be subjected to targeted violence, forced labour, exploitation, and recruitment into armed groups as they flee Sudan and settle in the Central African Republic. A robust child protection strategy is needed which covers protection activities for both young children and adolescent boys and girls. Child-friendly spaces, safe spaces, informal and formal education activities, and case-management services need to be scaled up and accessible to refugee children to ensure their protection and wellbeing while parents establish their households.

[25] Project 21: is a standardized regional protection monitoring system initiated in 2020 and a regional interagency project that collects monthly harmonized data across affected communities in the Sahel. However, although the Central African Republic is not part of this project, it still uses the project's tools to collect qualitative data.
[26] UNHCR Central African Republic Sudan Situation –Protection Brief GBV September 2023.
[27] UNHCR RBEHAGL Sudan Situation-UNHCR External Update #34 November 2023.
[28] https://www.unicef.org/sudan/media/5626/file/S3M_snapshot_child%20marriage_Sudan_2021.pdf
[29] Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (ICASEES). 2021. MICS6-RCA Enquête par grappes à indicateurs multiples 2018-2019, Rapport final des résultats de l'enquête. Bangui, République Centrafricaine : ICASEES.

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy

Role of the Government

The authorities in the Central African Republic have played a crucial role in coordinating and responding to the influx of refugees and returnees. In cooperation with national and local authorities, the government is actively working with humanitarian partners to address the urgent needs of the affected population, including both refugees and host communities. The government has ensured access to territory, including by granting prima facie status to Sudanese refugees and providing civil documentation. The government facilitated emergency operations and the provision of immediate life-saving interventions, as well as supported the relocation of arrivals to safer designated sites. The government agency for refugees, CNR has deployed staff across the country to set up protection monitoring mechanisms and to manage the refugee site Korsi in all aspects including shelter, WASH, health, protection, and other sectors. In addition, the government plays a central role in supporting and implementing protection measures for vulnerable groups, in particular children and survivors of violence, including GBV.

Inter-Agency Response

The situation in the Central African Republic has evolved significantly since the beginning of the emergency response in 2023. In the early stages of the response, RRP partners had to establish basic infrastructure, shelter and protection services from the onset to face the serious lack of pre-existing facilities and government capacity. This was crucial in laying the foundations for refugee access to essential services such as water supply and health care. Progress was also made in implementing an inter-agency multisectoral response in and around Korsi.

In 2024, the focus of the response is shifting to strengthening existing interventions and meeting the evolving needs of the growing population. In line with the efforts of the government, RRP partners will continue to provide a protection-centred response that includes documentation, access to basic services and resilience support to holistically address the needs of Sudanese refugees, Central African refugee returnees and migrant returnees. Partners are preparing to transition to a more sustainable response in order to support short and long-term priorities.

A community-based approach will be at the core of all interventions and refugees, as well as the most vulnerable identified in the host community, will be assisted.

The response in 2024 is based on a three-pronged approach:

Track 1: Arrival

Partners will continue to collaborate with the government to ensure access to territory and asylum and provide support to people in need of international protection. Protection monitoring mechanisms will continue operating at entry points and throughout the territory to strengthen analysis of refugee influxes and population movements. Once away from the border, in the established Korsi neighbourhood, the spontaneous sites, and the host villages, Level 1 and Level 2 registration will be carried out continuously in Korsi and through periodic missions at other sites. In the sites, registration activities will include the identification of individuals at heightened risk, the provision of civil documentation by the government, and referral to basic and support services as needed (health centre, GBV survivor support centre, child protection services). During the registration process, refugees will receive information on protection services available, the role of UNHCR and the government, and guidelines and sensitization messages about living in the site or host village. In Korsi, after the biometric registration, refugees will be provided with core relief items and shelter.

Track 2: Settlement

Relocation of refugees from insecure border areas to Korsi will continue. Information sharing about the relocation process, clear communication and consultation with refugees and host communities will continue. The principle of "do no harm" guides the inter-agency response and the relocation process.

Refugees taking alternate routes to spontaneous settlements and host-villages will remain free to do so.
At the Korsi site, the government and RRP partners will continue to provide protection and multisectoral assistance. This response will also be extended to refugees outside the site in areas of concentration. RRP partners intervening in shelter, nutrition, health, WASH, GBV, child protection, and education will continue supporting the refugee community and scale up as necessary.

The response continues to include an *Education in Emergency* component focused on supporting refugees to integrate into the local education system while ensuring that a safe and protective environment (both physical and psychological) is provided to all refugee children. Child protection services including child-friendly spaces will be scaled up to provide recreational activities as well as organized mental-health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities. Across both education and child protection interventions, the comprehensive MHPSS and protection referral mechanisms already established in schools and child-friendly spaces will be reinforced and expanded to any new structures. Refresher trainings will be organized for RRP actors, local authorities, teachers,

healthcare workers, and community leaders on child protection, GBV, and MHPSS.

Where possible, multi-purpose cash assistance will be provided, particularly in the sectors of food, nutrition and livelihoods, to improve the capacity to meet basic needs and reduce the likelihood of individuals and households to resort to harmful coping strategies. Given the proximity of refugee settlements to villages, the response will consider the needs within the host community and include local households and individuals at heightened risk in the provision of assistance while strengthening local systems. This will have a positive impact on peaceful coexistence. RRP partners will expand existing life-saving survivor-centred services for GBV survivors. Listening centres will continue to be operational to address GBV prevention and response, and the provision of PEP kits, training of frontline workers and community members on safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors, will take continue. The distribution of food, drinking water, emergency shelter, health services and core relief items such as mosquito nets, and hygiene kits, will be provided at entry points, while multisectoral assistance will take place at the Korsi site and in other locations where refugees are settled. To improve accountability to affected people (AAP), information and feedback centres established in Korsi will be reinforced and new arrivals will be informed about mechanisms for sharing complaints and feedback.

Track 3: Resilience

In 2024, RRP partners will also focus their response on building resilience, livelihoods, and economic inclusion in keeping with the humanitarian, peace, and development approach. This will include supporting local organizations with agricultural inputs and necessary tools; enhancing existing skills by leveraging local resources (e.g., agro-food processing); promoting value chains; conducting market studies on promising sectors; and local procurement. In addition, RRP partners will support initiatives by women-led organizations, young refugees, and host communities. Refugees will be encouraged to join the local schools' parent's associations, that will help to launch income-generating activities and will reinforce education in host-villages. RRP partners will also put in place mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of interventions. Finally, partners will establish links with existing businesses to create economic opportunities.

It is important to underline that the response in the Central African Republic will continue to take place in a highly challenging context from a security and logistical point of view. Before the crisis, Vakaga was supplied through Sudan. As the crisis unfolded, the north-east was completely cut off and the supply chain was disrupted. In addition, with the roads impassable for several months during the rainy season and security risks due to clashes taking place in Vakaga, especially during the dry season, the window of opportunity to deliver aid is very limited. A truck carrying NFIs, food products, or construction materials can take up to two months to travel from the capital, Bangui to the town of Birao in the Vakaga district. Challenges such as lack of transportation, poor road conditions, fuel shortages and high fuel costs will affect operations in general, as well as relocation costs.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Support the Government of the Central African Republic to ensure access to territory and asylum as well as provide protection and assistance to Sudanese refugees through a comprehensive inter-agency response, including presence and essential protection services at border points, relocation support and multisectoral support to refugees once on site.

SO2: Identify and provide assistance to refugee returnees and migrant returnees including the reintegration of Central African nationals, and former refugees who have returned under adverse circumstances. Support to third country nationals, including consular services and repatriation in coordination with relevant embassies and consulates.

SO3: Build resilience and social cohesion by promoting the localization of the response and by ensuring that interventions are community-based, including through the involvement of civil society organizations led by forcibly displaced people, women, youth, and people with disabilities.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

UNHCR and the CNR will continue pre-registering new arrivals at the reception centres established in refugee sites. Protection monitoring will take place at the main entry points to ensure access to the territory and necessary immediate protection interventions. Biometric registration will take place once refugees relocate to interior sites where they will also receive refugee documentation. At the Korsi site, refugees will be assigned a shelter and basic assistance will be provided.
Protection monitoring in border areas will be conducted in close coordination with local authorities and the MINUSCA mission in the area to provide the necessary security safeguards and facilitate presence. Community-based protection monitoring will be strengthened through community-based outreach workers who will be trained on safe and ethical information gathering from key informants from within the population, selected with consideration of age, gender and diversity aspects. Protection monitoring will enable evidence-based advocacy, including on the civilian character of asylum, and inform appropriate programmatic responses.
In addition, protection partners will continue to:

- Advocate with the authorities to preserve the civil and humanitarian character of asylum and will continue to train authorities, social workers and actors working in the field, as well as sensitizing the communities.
- Ensure that refugees have access to the Central African Republic's territory, and that refoulement is prevented. Partners will also continue to provide legal assistance to refugees and returnees to address issues related to documentation, property rights, and legal status.
- Ensure that new arrivals are individually registered and provided with civil documentation to ensure protection and facilitate the delivery of life-saving assistance.
- Invest in communities, by promoting meaningful participation and local solutions, and the strengthening of community protection structures, also in cooperation with grassroots organizations, including those led by women.
- Advocate for the integration of refugees into the country's social protection system through increased cooperation with government services.
- Enhance capacity building of local authorities, administrative and judicial entities on international protection principles to ensure that refugees are treated as per global protection standards.
- Sensitize refugees on their rights and obligations in the Central African Republic, also raising awareness on the available social and legal services.

As part of the protection sector strategy, RRP partners will increase two-way communication with the local community and authorities. In addition, partners will continue to ensure that existing refugee community representative structures are strengthened and contribute to the emergency response. Decision-making will include consultation with people of different ages, genders, and diverse backgrounds to ensure that the needs of the various community groups and profiles are taken into consideration. Community empowerment to enhance the protection of individuals in situations of vulnerability will be promoted, through training of community volunteers and community protection monitoring focal points, and by disseminating information on services, and identification and referral of persons at risk. The response will also work closely with grassroots structures, including those led by youth and women to strengthen social cohesion and resilience. Community volunteers and community protection monitoring focal points will also be trained in protection, MHPSS, prevention and reporting of GBV, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

RRP partners established three community-based child-friendly spaces and are planning to establish more to provide a safe and protective environment to support the psychosocial well-being of refugee children. Recreational and psychosocial activities will continue to be carried out to ensure children's physical and psychosocial protection and will include the identification of children who are unaccompanied, separated or at heightened risk. Case management services will be available to conduct assessments, carry out follow-up actions, and will also include access to best interests' procedure for children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children, family tracing and reunification, provision of appropriate family-based alternative care for unaccompanied children. Prevention of risk, including prevention of family separation, trafficking, and recruitment into radical or armed groups will be prioritized through community-based and family strengthening programmes. Staff from other sectors and community volunteers will be trained in safe identification and referral, and the capacity of service providers will be strengthened to provide child-friendly services, and to ensure a safe and protective environment for children. RRP partners will work with the social service's focal points of the local district to reinforce their capacity through trainings and ensure their participation in

case management, strategic planning of child protection activities, and periodic assessments and gaps.

Sub-sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV)

In 2023, RRP partners trained 254 frontline workers and members of community structures on the holistic response to GBV survivors, including safe disclosure and referral, and how to engage refugees in early prevention activities.

Life-saving services for survivors will be strengthened to respond to GBV in a holistic manner (including case management, availability of PEP kits and provision of dignity kits). GBV risk mitigation plans will be promoted across humanitarian interventions, in support of other sectors. Partners will continue to invest in GBV prevention, mitigation, and response, ensuring that survivors have access to quality case management services and essential services such as safety and health. GBV safe spaces have already been established to provide first aid and psychosocial support to survivors using the *Ma Mbi Si* [30] methodology, while trauma healing and mental health promotion will be embedded in community interventions and peer support groups.

In 2024, RRP partners will continue implementing activities for refugee and Central African returnee women, girls and men: (i) adolescent girls will continue benefitting from life skills to help them make informed decisions, communicate effectively and develop adaptive and self-management skills that are likely to contribute to a healthy and productive life; (ii) men, including community leaders, will benefit from capacity-building sessions to enable them to take preventive action against GBV in refugee sites. Trainings specifically designed for men and boys and adapted to the local context will be developed to promote positive masculinities that will make Korsi a safe and secure place for women and girls.

GBV risk mitigation measures will be integrated across sectors, including site planning, WASH, health, and school facilities, as well as during food distribution and access to clean energy. Systems will continue being strengthened through the close collaboration with the district hospital where a GBV support centre was established. District hospital healthcare staff work together with RRP partners to ensure access to group and individual therapy for GBV survivors, distribution of dignity kits, and availability of key resources such as Post-Exposure Prophylaxix (PEP) kits. Training on mitigation of risk of GBV and trauma-sensitive response will continue being organized to reinforce the capacity of local system staff, including district healthcare workers, local education authorities, prefectural staff, and security forces, including police officers.

Education

Education is one of the key protection areas that will continue to be prioritized in the response to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of children, as well as improve their learning and levels of education. To date, the response has facilitated improved access to education for refugees and host-community children in two primary schools in the village of Birao. Education partners installed temporary learning spaces and distributed school kits and pedagogical materials. They also set up psychosocial support teams and protection referral mechanisms in the schools to connect affected students and teachers to support services. Partners trained a total of 58 teachers, administrators, and community mobilizers on mental health, psychological support, identification and referral of children at risk, and prevention of GBV, and reinforced community mobilizers and parents' associations to lead awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of school attendance, girls' education, and education for children with disabilities.

To date, the ongoing education awareness-raising campaigns have reached a total of 5,720 refugee and host community members. Finally, to equip teachers with the pedagogical skills to support new refugee learners, education partners in collaboration with the Alliance Française organized a training of 28 local teachers including 10 women on instructional strategies for teaching French as a foreign language to support Sudanese refugees with the transition into the French-language education system.

In 2024, RRP partners will continue working with the national authorities to facilitate the integration of refugees into the national education system, prioritizing strengthening existing local schools. Emergency education response activities will be expanded to new refugee-hosting villages, notably in the Haute-Kotto and Mbomou districts. This will include offsetting temporary learning spaces and providing school kits, pedagogical materials, and other support to facilitate the enrolment of newly arrived refugees in local schools.

Existing activities in Birao will continue alongside new initiatives such as the formation of "French Clubs" for

[30] Meaning "listen to me too" in Sango. It is also the name chosen by women in the Central African Republic for the new GBV centres.

language support, the creation of higher education opportunities for youth, the construction of durable infrastructure in schools, the establishment of school-based nurseries for teaching-mothers and student-mothers, and the launch of income-generating activities for parents' associations. There will be a strong focus ensuring that schools are safe and welcoming environments, and that the needs of girls, adolescents and children with disabilities are addressed.

While the refugee education response will be led by UNHCR within the framework of the refugee coordination model, RRP education partners will also collaborate with the education cluster, the local education group, and the child protection and GBV Sub-sectors to promote safe access to schools. Throughout these activities, the response will promote peaceful coexistence and ensure the meaningful participation of both refugee and host communities in education activities through empowering parent-teacher associations and building the capacity of local education authorities.

Food Security

Sudanese refugees, including new arrivals, are in dire need of food assistance. Food security partners will continue to provide emergency assistance to refugees to meet their basic food and nutritional needs through general distributions in-kind or in cash where feasible. Food assistance will be extended to all refugees, including those settled outside of the site.

Safeguards and awareness activities will be carried out by food security partners to ensure that distribution is accessible and safe for women, girls, and people with disabilities. By doing so, child protection and GBV risks will be mitigated by ensuring meaningful access to assistance that pays particular attention to vulnerabilities by identifying the barriers and risks faced by women and girls and providing solutions in collaboration with the community. Regular consultations with women and girls on protection issues related to food assistance in collaboration with GBV and child protection services will ensure an adequate and inclusive response. Food security partners will pre-position food stocks in Birao and other hard-to-reach locations ahead of the June rainy season, subject to timely receipt of contributions. This will enable partners to support new Sudanese refugees in 2024, as well as those who arrived in 2023, and vulnerable host communities.

In addition, food security partners will continue to strengthen community engagement through community consultations and feedback mechanisms throughout the programme cycle. Furthermore, partners will also distribute agricultural inputs (including livestock) that will enable Sudanese refugees to cultivate a variety of vegetables and raise animals, improving their diet and generating some income. These activities will also involve the host community.

Public Health & Nutrition

At the onset of the crisis, health and nutrition partners supported local health centres, and donated medicine as part of the immediate emergency response. To improve access to health care at the border and in the site, partners will continue to provide support, including medicine and other supplies to the local clinic in Am Dafock and health facilities in Birao.

The health centre established in Korsi site by RRP partners in collaboration with the district hospital and local authorities has been recognized and integrated into the national health system. The centre serves both refugees and host-community populations, providing curative consultations, a malnutrition programme, obstetrician-gynecologist services, ambulatory services and a partnership and referral system to the district hospital in case of need.

Partners will strengthen existing health structures by providing medical facilities, staff and resources to address both immediate and long-term health needs.

Continued advocacy will be reinforced with the Ministry of Health to expand vaccination coverage for existing populations and set up vaccination screening in registration centres. Mobile clinics will be set up to provide medical consultations, psychosocial support, and nutritional screening. Malnourished and high-risk children under five, as well as pregnant and lactating women, will continue to be treated in local health facilities. MHPSS will also be provided to address the emotional well-being of refugees and returnees, particularly those who have experienced trauma. Health services for survivors of GBV, including sexual violence, will be strengthened and a safe disclosure and referral system among health practitioners will be put in place. Partners will continue to ensure integrated community management of malnutrition and will strengthen nutrition surveillance through early detection. Acute malnutrition will continue to be treated in children aged 6 to 59 months and in pregnant and lactating women. Partners will also intensify efforts to ensure prevention of malnutrition through emergency education on infant and early childhood nutrition and the provision of special nutritional foods.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion (LEI)

Opportunities to access farmland and other economic activities are being explored for refugees and Central African refugees and migrant returnees. For refugees, access to land will have to be negotiated with local authorities, traditional leaders, and communities. In 2023, the government assigned a plot of land in the Vakaga district to be farmed by locals and refugees for agricultural activities. Modest programmes were initiated which will be boosted in 2024. Partners will focus on inclusion and reintegration by closely working with local organizations. Refugees will be assisted in developing activities to create or rehabilitate assets. They will participate in community work and will receive cash-based or in-kind transfers. Households will integrate with farmer groups to receive capacity-building and increase their resilience and food security. The monitoring systems will include a gender lens to help analyse the impact of all programmes.

Settlement & Shelter/Housing

Shelter and settlement partners will continue to construct emergency shelters and distribute shelter and household kits to newly arrived refugee and third country nationals in Korsi. In transit centres and in refugee sites, while refugees are waiting for biometric registration, communal shelters will be set up to ensure gender-sensitive and child protection measures.

In 2024, the shelter response in refugee sites will transition to more durable shelters including the possibility for refugees and host communities to produce and incorporate bricks. This approach will ensure durability, while the use of local knowledge and materials will help preserve the environment and support local development. Partners will support and strengthen community-based leadership structures and ensure that refugees are empowered to actively participate in proposed shelter solutions. Measures to ensure the safety of women and children, especially girls, and to reduce the risk of GBV are established in the temporary settlements at Korsi and will be carried over to the relocation site. These measures include gender-sensitive communal shelters, and adequate lighting, including access to individual solar lamps where possible. Transitional shelters will be constructed using cash and in-kind assistance.

Water, Hygiene & Sanitation (WASH)

To ensure sustainable access to drinking water for refugees after relocation, WASH partners will construct additional wells and boreholes and install storage tanks, solar stations, and distribution pipes. Gender-sensitive and accessible communal toilets and bathing facilities will be strengthened. Community participation will be supported by establishing water committees to ensure water point management initiatives, including maintenance and quality monitoring. Sanitation facilities will be improved to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases and hygiene education programmes will be established to promote healthy practices within communities.

Additional hand-washing facilities will be installed, and hygiene kits containing menstrual hygiene items will be distributed to refugees to ensure dignity, promote good hygiene practices, and reduce the risk of disease. Additional WASH facilities will be constructed close to shelters, and lighting will be provided around latrines to reduce the risk of GBV.

At the Korsi site, community support will focus on reinforcing and maintaining communal latrines and distributing family hygiene kits.

Basic Needs

In 2024, humanitarian partners will scale up their response to ensure that refugees and returnees in the Central African Republic have access to basic services. The response will require a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve coordination between humanitarian partners, government agencies, and NGOs to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize resource allocation. Consultation between humanitarian organizations and local communities will be strengthened to ensure that the response is culturally sensitive and meets the specific needs of the affected populations. Essential relief items will be distributed to refugees and returnees to meet their basic needs and will be distributed in a manner that prevents exploitation by ensuring an age, gender and diversity approach.

Logistics, Supply & Telecommunications

A UNHCR office in Birao is being established to ensure coordination of assistance and follow-up. CNR and other RRP partners have also established their presence and require effective logistical and communication facilities. Logistics and communications equipment will also be needed for those who will establish a presence in Birao at a later date.

Under the overall coordination of the Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector (RETS), internet connectivity, security telecommunications and other technology services will be provided in joint operational areas/sites as required by humanitarian needs and operations.

Sudan, a key supply corridor in the past, is now completely disrupted, with most supplies coming from Bangui, creating major transportation challenges. Trucking from Bangui to Birao can take up to a month during the dry season (2,000 km) and 2-3 months during the rainy season (May to December). Given the logistical constraints of the rainy season, the response continues to rely on air transport of essential items to Birao, which is extremely expensive.

In order not to disrupt the delivery of aid, logistical support is being scaled up to deliver additional essential items by air and road. Efforts are underway to increase the capacity to pre-position fuel and CRIs during the dry season. The relocation exercise will require additional logistical resources by mobilising more trucks to transport refugees and their belongings.

Assistance for Third Country Nationals

In close coordination with embassies and consulates, IOM will offer the most vulnerable third country nationals the possibility to return to their countries of origin. This will include the provision of a range of services such as the identification of immediate needs (hygiene and dignity kits, medical assistance, NFIs, clothing), onward transportation within the country and to their countries of origin, transit assistance, shelter (on a needs-basis), food assistance, medical stabilization and treatment, and, where appropriate, IOM escorts international movement assistance.

IOM will work closely with RRP partners to ensure that tailored assistance is provided to third country nationals with special protection needs, including vulnerable cases such as victims of trafficking, GBV survivors, unaccompanied or separated children and other children at risk, older people, people with disabilities, and people with serious medical conditions.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
  - Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion
  - Sub-Section: Youth
  - Sub- Section: Older People
- Accountability to Affected People (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Climate Action
- Cash Assistance

Read more in the Regional Overview pp. 16-17

Cash Assistance

The possibility of providing cash and/ or voucher assistance as the main method of assistance will be explored and used where possible and where the security of the area permits. In addition, as the Birao area is highly dependent on trade with Sudan, and the imports of goods have been severely disrupted by the Sudanese crisis, there are limited goods and products available on the local market, and what is available on the local market has increased in price significantly since the start of the crisis. Cash is used to a limited extent for refugee communities elsewhere for education and as part of reintegration grants for returnees. Cash assistance will be considered under a livelihoods component to support self-reliance, a shelter approach to transition to durable structures, and a multipurpose nutrition insecurity approach.

Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus

The RRP is aligned with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, which emphasises the need for early solutions and inclusion in addressing refugee emergencies. RRP partners will collaborate with humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors to integrate approaches that address the immediate needs of refugees while promoting long-term solutions. Effective coordination with development partners will be essential in finding solutions for refugees and returnees. This cooperation is expected to reduce the burden on host communities, support government response, and promote self-reliance and socioeconomic inclusion of refugees. Specific areas of support will include development needs assessments, scaling up of education, health, water and sanitation services, vocational training, access to energy, and capacity-building for local governments and municipalities. These efforts aim to build the resilience and self-reliance of affected communities. Development partners can build on their existing knowledge and experience of working with the authorities and may be able to extend their support to existing programmes for refugees. Coordination with key ministries at national, district, and local levels will be crucial. This includes working with the Ministries of Health, Humanitarian Action, Territorial Administration, and Planning.

Partnership and Coordination

In line with the refugee coordination model, UNHCR supports the government in leading and coordinating the response. Since the beginning of the crisis, UNHCR and the CNR have held coordination meetings in Bangui with humanitarian partners on the Sudan situation. UNHCR and CNR are leading a refugee response working group with over 25 partners, including UN agencies, and international/national NGOs.

In Birao, a humanitarian coordination mechanism led by OCHA existed prior to the Sudan crisis, with sector working groups such as education, WASH, nutrition insecurity", and protection. With the influx of refugees in the zone, UNHCR and the CNR activated the Refugee Coordination Model and have been leading the refugee response in collaboration with actors who are already working in the area. The response to the Sudan crisis has provided an opportunity for RRP partners to develop partnerships with local actors, including women-led organizations, who know the area well, speak the local languages, and understand the dynamics of the local communities. Given the presence of internally displaced people and the wider humanitarian needs in the Vakaga area, the refugee response is implemented in close coordination with OCHA and partners, in line with the OCHA-UNHCR Joint Note on Mixed Situations. While UNHCR retains strategic leadership and accountability for the refugee response, this approach maximizes complementarity and efficiency in coordination and implementation and avoids duplication. The IOM-UNHCR Framework of Engagement: Serving and Protecting Together, provides further guidance on working with refugee and migrant movements.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

10 Partners involved	UN Agencies 8	International NGOs 2
	$44,308,458	$1,865,534

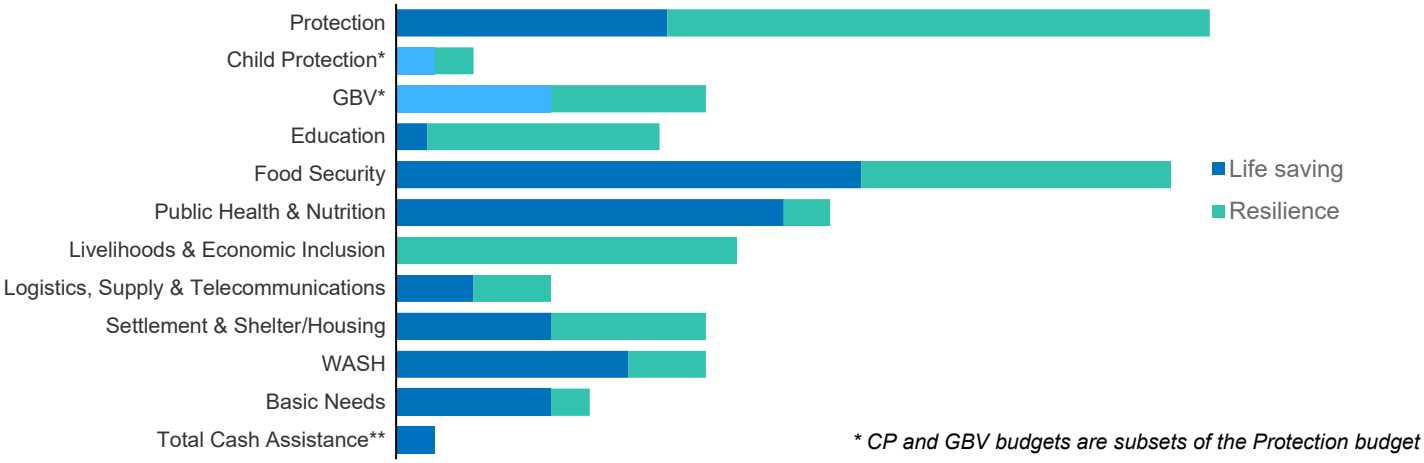
Note: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP. Many other national and local actors, including grassroots organizations collaborate with RRP partners to carry out RRP activities.

Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	***Life Saving***	***Resilience/Systems Strengthening***	***Total in USD***
Protection	*$3,559,359*	*$6,858,158*	*$10,417,517*
➢ *Of which Child Protection*	*$464,693*	*$522,365*	*$987,058*
➢ *Of which GBV*	*$2,055,762*	*$1,557,735*	*$3,613,497*
Education	*$404,694*	*$2,879,324*	*$3,284,018*
Food Security	*$6,154,183*	*$4,239,000*	*$10,393,183*
Public Health and Nutrition	*$5,174,933*	*$566,663*	*$5,741,596*
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion		*$4,363,343*	*$4,363,343*
Logistics, Supply and Telecommunications	*$1,297,317*	*$1,054,609*	*$2,351,925*
Settlement and Shelter/Housing	*$1,907,147*	*$1,617,787*	*$3,524,934*
WASH	*$2,791,216*	*$660,304*	*$3,451,520*
Basic Needs	*$2,209,326*	*$436,630*	*$2,645, 956*
Total	***$23,498,174***	***$22,675,818***	***$46,173,992***

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in USD
International NGO			**1,865,534**
COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE	COOPI	INGO	783,531
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS	IMC	INGO	1,082,003
United Nations			**44,308,458**
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION	FAO	UN	4,200,000
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION	IOM	UN	2,568,500
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND	UNICEF	UN	2,700,000
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES	UNHCR	UN	22,000,000
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND	UNFPA	UN	3,503,123
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	WFP	UN	7,182,780
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	WHO	UN	1,804,075
UN WOMEN	UN WOMEN	UN	350,000
Total USD			**46,173,992**

Chad
Country chapter

Towards the end of 2023, UNHCR and partners started to relocate Sudanese refugees living in makeshift shelters in the Chadian border town of Adre to Alacha, a newly built refugee site. Persons with special needs, such as older people travelled in light vehicles to ensure their comfort and safety. UNHCR and partners aim to relocate 40,000 refugees to Alacha site. However, at least 160,000 Sudanese refugees remained in Adre, living in makeshift shelters without adequate access to basic services as of November 2023. More support is urgently needed.

AT A GLANCE

Chad Planned Response

January-December 2024

1.17 M
Refugees

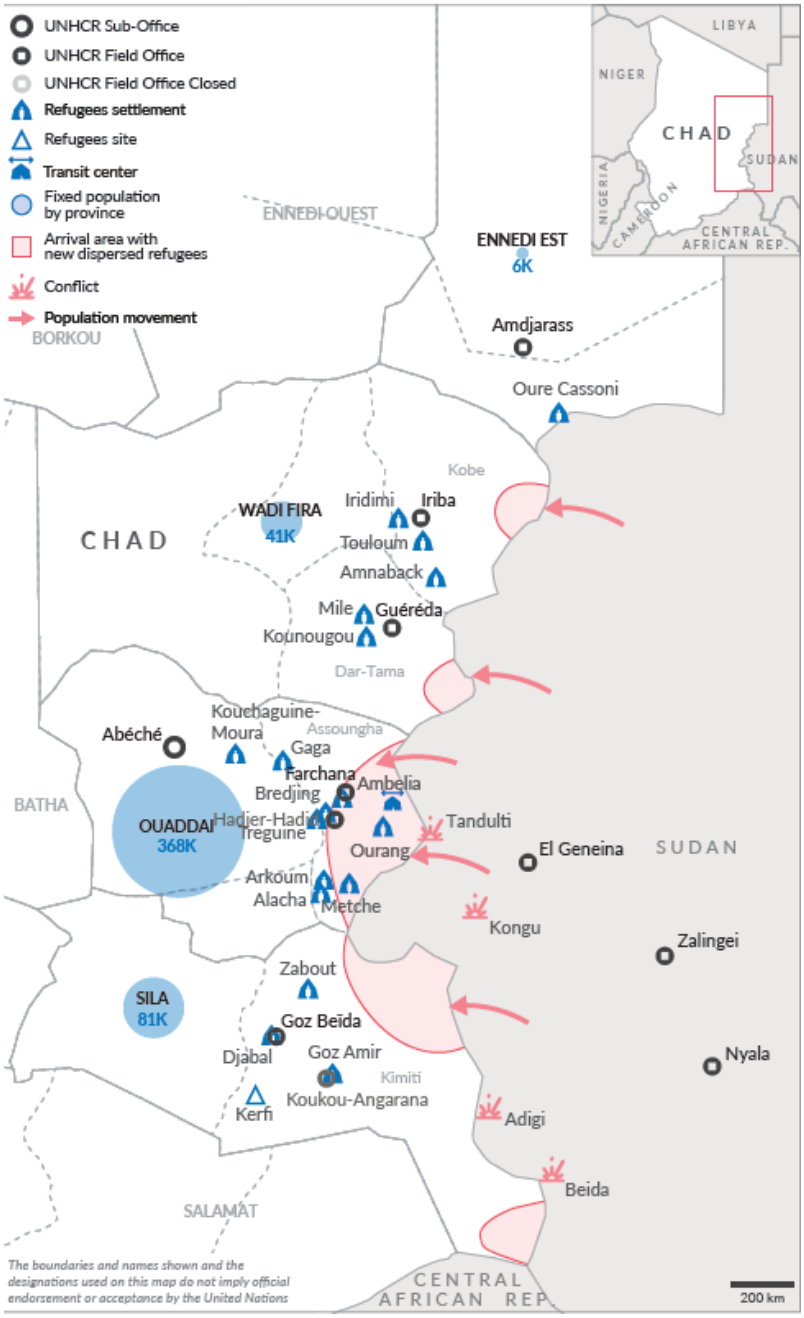
65 K[31]
Returnees

500
Third Country Nationals

168 K
Host Community

USD
630.3 M
Total Financial requirements

23
RRP Partners

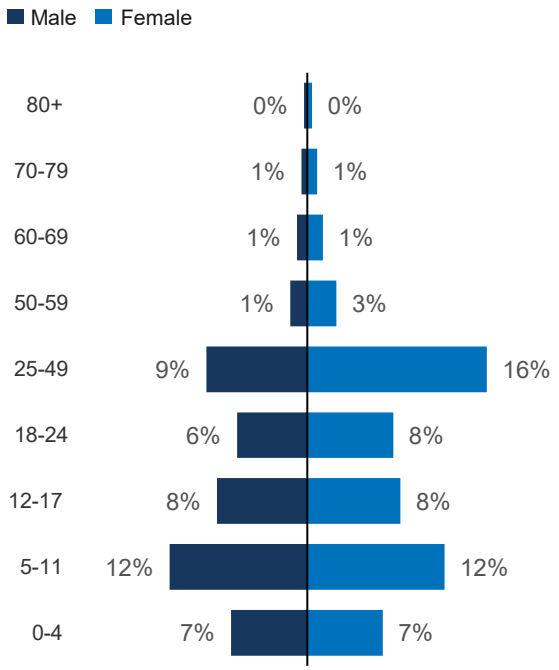


[31] *This figure includes refugee returnees and migrant returnees.*

Population Planning Figures

Country	Sudanese refugees pre-15 April 2023	New Arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Refugee Population	409,819	484,626	1,174,000
Returnees		93,700	65,000
Third Country Nationals		350	500
Host Community			167,805
Total projected population in need			**1,407,305**

Age and gender breakdown



16%

People with disabilities

57%

Women and girls

43%

Men and boys

54%

Children

MID-YEAR UPDATE

Highlights

As of June 2024, the Government of Chad counted 608,715 Sudanese new arrivals to have crossed over into its territory, of which 124,089 individuals have crossed since January 2024; 89 per cent are women and children, and 14 per cent are persons with specific needs that includes people with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children and older persons.

With the increase in the number of new arrivals in Chad, the Government, through the local authorities, provided another plot of land for the establishment of Dougui, the sixth new refugee site in Chad to which refugees have started to be relocated, while infrastructure and services are still being put in place.

The security situation has remained stable through the conduct of national elections and inauguration of President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno in May, marking the end of the transitional government.

Consequences of underfunding

As of June, the response in Chad is just 21 per cent funded.

The critical funding shortfall is impacting the operation and the daily lives of the refugees, including the large pre-existing Sudanese refugee caseload. If not promptly addressed, this urgent situation will leave tens of thousands of Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict stranded at border entry points in Chad.

- On average, refugees have access to only 8 litres of clean water per day, which is below the 15-litre minimum Sphere standards and below the post-emergency standard of 20 litres per person, per day.
- Latrines built to serve 20 people are used by 60 people.
- There is only one doctor for every 25,000 people, which is more than twice the standard ratio, and a limited supply of essential drugs.
- Many refugee children attend lessons under trees with very few teachers.
- Limited funding means 60,791 shelters will not be built for refugees, leaving women and girls at greater risk of exploitation and other gender-based violence.
- Funding shortfalls also translate into very limited livelihood projects that can help refugees and hosting communities to become resilient.
- Lack of funding could affect security measures in place, which will affect efforts to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee sites.

Priority needs

With an increasing number of new arrivals and the recent brutal fighting in Al Fasher, in Sudan's North Darfur State, coupled with more than 180,000 new arrivals still waiting for relocation at the Adré refugee spontaneous site, RRP partners will need to urgently establish at least two new refugee sites to accommodate new arrivals. Additional trucks, core relief items and food rations are also urgently needed to cope with the influx.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Chad hosts the largest number of people fleeing violence in Sudan, from before and as a result of the recent crisis. Since April 2023, eastern Chad has received more Sudanese refugees than in the last two decades. The new arrivals come mostly from Darfur, one of Sudan's regions most affected by violence and where the escalation of conflict, including ethnically motivated attacks, indiscriminate violence, lootings, and intense fighting, continues to force thousands of people to flee Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira, Sila and Ennedi Est provinces received 496,834 new Sudanese refugees as of December 2023, and 93,700 Chadian migrant returnees according to IOM as Chad continues to grant access to its territory despite the official closure of its border with Sudan. An additional 250,000 refugees and 60,000 Chadian migrant returnees could arrive in Chad in 2024.

New arrivals – mostly women and children – often arrive in poor health, malnourished, traumatized and wounded. New arrivals first settle in overcrowded, spontaneous sites along the border, where they sleep in makeshift shelters. They need protection and assistance, including psychosocial support, food, shelter, water and sanitation services, and core relief items such as mattresses, soap and cooking utensils. Given the high proportion of women and children among the new arrivals, the number of reports of physical assault, including gender-based violence (GBV), GBV services, mental health and psychosocial support and child protection are critical concerns. Due to insecurity in areas along the borders, relocating newly arriving refugees to settlements remains a top priority.

It is also worthwhile to note, that in the initial months of arrival (May-July), nearly three-quarters of households said they had no intention of returning to Sudan even if the political and security situation improved. This intention changed significantly between August-October when 58 per cent said they would like to return to Sudan if the political and security situation improved.

New refugees continue to arrive in eastern Chad, an area that was already hosting 407,000 Sudanese refugees. In this region, natural resources are scarce, infrastructure is precarious, essential services are lacking, and livelihood activities are limited. As a result, vulnerable host, refugee and returnee families already face incredible hardship, with refugee families hit the hardest.

While the authorities have so far maintained access to their territory, there are real risks that the new arrivals overwhelm the already overstretched public services and exacerbate the competition for limited natural resources, pushing economically vulnerable families further into poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and fuelling possible tensions and violence between the host communities and the newly arrived refugees.

The closure of the border with Sudan for commercial traffic continues to impact the socioeconomic situation in the Chadian border provinces that rely on cross-border trade. In these regions, prices of services and goods have spiked while job opportunities have decreased, depriving thousands of Chadians of their livelihood and making it harder for families to make ends meet.

Host communities hit by the effects of the crisis in the most fragile areas of eastern Chad report feeling overlooked by a response that focuses on providing immediate relief to forcibly displaced communities. As a result, they are increasingly advocating for assistance. Massive investments are needed to strengthen the basic national services and support the economic development for inclusion, resilience and shared prosperity between refugees and host communities.

From the onset of the influx, RRP partners have worked tirelessly in support of the Chadian Government and local authorities to provide life-saving assistance including basic protection services in spontaneous border sites and in extensions of existing and newly established settlements. By the end of 2023, over 496,834 refugees received basic protection services, including extremely limited specialized services for unaccompanied and separated children and for children in distress and survivors of trauma. 66,619 children were targeted by activities in child-friendly spaces, and 28,000 children enrolled for primary education while the majority remained out of school.

By the end of 2023, some 198,388 refugees have been relocated to safety into existing and new settlements, where more than 136,650 refugees have been biometrically registered. About 45,000 refugee families received emergency shelters. RRP partners have built 38 boreholes, 61 water supply stations and more than 6,000 communal latrines and showers to provide refugees with water and basic hygiene services.

Nutrition partners have screened over 85,600 children under five years old for acute malnutrition and provided treatment to over 27,000 malnourished children. Close to 450,000 refugees have received a 30-day food ration with nutrition supplements to prevent malnutrition. Mobile clinics and health facilities provided primary care, including nearly 168,000 medical consultations, over 7,200 mental health consultations, pre and antenatal care, and vaccinations. While Sudanese refugees continue to flee the unrelenting conflict, there is still a need to scale up the immediate response at the border while at the same time accelerating efforts to relocate as many people as possible to settlements in safer areas. This includes

around 170,000 refugees estimated to be waiting in spontaneous sites along the border. Existing and recently created settlements are quickly reaching capacity, and additional ones must be urgently established.

In this complex reality, there is a need to broaden the scope of the response to include urgent actions that can contribute to lessening the impact on host communities in eastern Chad as well as on other Sudanese refugees in protracted displacement to safeguard social cohesion among all groups of Sudanese refugees and host communities.

In 2024, RRP partners will prioritize urgent interventions to save lives, to protect livelihoods and enhance resilience. Assistance will cover nearly 1.4 million people, including new arrivals from Sudan, Sudanese refugees in protracted situations, Chadian migrant returnees, and vulnerable host community families most impacted by the Sudan situation in eastern Chad to avert a humanitarian catastrophe.

Country Risks and Needs

Since the onset of the crisis in Sudan, RRP partners have been present in areas of arrival to detect the main protection issues and risks of the newly arriving population. Systematic monitoring is currently undertaken through an interagency and cross-border protection monitoring systems (*Project 21*[32]). RRP partners have interviewed 6,554 refugee households at entry points and spontaneous sites between May and December 2023, revealing serious protection concerns and highlighting priority needs. Most of the existing refugee settlements have been running for more than 17 years, and the new refugee influx from Sudan is creating more demands. Households interviewed expressed priority needs as shelter, cooking utensils, household items and access to basic services.

While 7 per cent of the refugees arriving from Sudan between May and July 2023 had experienced difficulties related to access to territory, and in later months 16 per cent reported being threatened with physical assault, no one reported difficulties accessing Chad. Major risks to physical security and safety have been observed for refugees in Chad. Those include violations of the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum and sites, the risk of exposure to physical and sexual violence and aggression, risks of exposure to labour and sexual exploitation, smuggling and human trafficking, as well as the risks associated with onward movement, particularly of youth.

The distressing experience of the conflict, the level of violence directly experienced or witnessed, including GBV; the involuntary family separation and the apprehension for the family members left behind (78 per cent of refugees reported having left family members in Sudan) have determined a significant level of distress and trauma amongst the refugee population. The difficulties faced during flight and in areas of arrival, the loss of most of household assets and the current dependency on humanitarian aid just aggravate this situation.

Protection monitoring reports at the border and in refugees hosting areas indicate the main protection risks faced by children include physical assault and aggression as well as obstacles to continuing education, while almost all children had been attending school in Sudan. There is a concern that the families' dire circumstances, coupled with a prolonged lack of access to education and other forms of childcare, may further expose refugee children to various forms of neglect, abuse, and exploitation, including child labour, recruitment, trafficking, and GBV.

Unfortunately, many newly arrived Sudanese refugee women and girls in Chad are survivors of GBV either during the conflict or while fleeing are in need of support services. Some 58 per cent of newly arrived refugees are still living in dire conditions at spontaneous border sites where women and girls are exposed to heightened GBV risks, women and girls reported feeling exposed when walking outside at night (32 per cent) and while fetching wood or water (34 per cent). In the settlements, assessments show that a lack of resources has resulted in insufficient shelter and segregated WASH facilities, absent or insufficient public lighting, limited access to food, water and firewood, and lack of access to livelihoods –all factors that increase the risks of GBV.[33] During focus group discussions conducted with Sudanese refugee women in Sila, Ouaddai and Wadi Fira provinces, they reported fighters looting homes, killing family members and sexually assaulting women and girls. Some have shared reports of sexual harassment and violence in Sudan.

The number of GBV incidents reported to partners has multiplied six-fold from April 2023 to November 2023. The reported cases represent a small fraction of the actual incidents. Refugee women during the focus groups mentioned that reporting was inhibited by: (i) limited access to services, (ii) being too worried about basic needs and not seeing reporting GBV as a priority, (iii) not being ready to disclose and (iv) community stigma [34] 46 per cent of new arrival households have reported lacking proper documentation, including birth certificates. The lack of documentation may expose refugees, especially

[32] More information on Project 21 can be found here: https://response.reliefweb.int/west-and-central-africa/protection/projet-21
[33] Document – UNHCR TCHAD | GBV in Emergency in CHAD- analysis and advocacy role
[34] https://data.unhcr.org/es/documents/details/105136

children, to additional challenges, including more difficult access to registration, as well as essential services such as education and health care, exposing children to further protection risks besides triggering a potential risk of statelessness.

An estimated 55 per cent of new arrivals are school-aged children, of whom 29 per cent are pre-primary school age, 43 per cent are primary school age, and 28 per cent are of secondary school age. There is an urgent need to enrol 250,000 school-aged children by increasing the absorption capacity of existing schools, constructing new classrooms and other educational facilities, and by recruiting and training teachers.

The JAM (Joint Assessment Mission) completed in November 2021 by UNHCR, WFP, CNARR and partners already showed 56 per cent of refugee households throughout the country are highly vulnerable and 72 per cent among Sudanese refugees. More than 577,990 people are severely food insecure and cannot meet their most basic food needs without external assistance. Food insecurity affected an additional 536,852 people during the lean season, the period between harvest when food is most difficult to access. Food stocks were depleted, and people did not have enough money to buy food. Refugee families are hit the hardest. More than 80 per cent of refugees have a poor or borderline consumption level of food, with food insecurity impacting almost 83 per cent of new arrivals compared to 73 per cent of the existing refugee population. Refugee families with specific needs are among the most food insecure. In these regions, 10 per cent to 16 per cent of families resort to harmful coping strategies to survive. These include selling household assets, reducing the quantity and nutritional quality of meals, begging, sell and exchange of sex, borrowing from traders, and school dropout and child labour to be able to buy food. Levels of malnutrition are also extremely concerning, with the prevalence of global acute malnutrition exceeding 10 per cent in all three provinces.

Moreover, rapid environmental assessments conducted in eastern Chad in November 2023 showed that refugee communities and Chadian populations do not have sufficient access cooking energy any source of lighting. It is risky for refugees to move across the settlements at night, especially for women, girls, and boys who are at heightened risk of physical and sexual violence. Firewood is used for cooking, leading to the depletion of the very scarce resources increasing the tensions with local communities.

Access to electricity is also limited. The few structures with electricity run on generators whose power varies, and only 30 per cent of these assets are in an acceptable state of operation. Outdoor lighting is almost non-existent in most areas. Health care institutions also lack sufficient lighting, and some delivery and observation rooms are not lit.

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy

Role of the Government

Chad has a long tradition of welcoming refugees and is party to all international and regional legal instruments for the international protection of refugees, including the 1951 Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention.

The Government of Chad leads the response to refugees, returnees and host communities affected by the Sudan crisis. From the onset of the crisis, Chad has continued to grant access to asylum-seekers from Sudan despite the official closure of its border with Sudan. The government was quick to deploy additional security forces along the border to guarantee safety and promote access to territory and asylum. On 25 April 2023 – ten days after the start of the conflict in Sudan – the President of the Transition signed a decree implementing the country's 2020 Asylum Law, which offers opportunities to improve the living conditions of refugees in Chad sustainably. The government continues to support the relocation of refugees from the border.

Given the scale of the crisis and its impact on the economic development trajectory of the country, the government is developing a National Response Plan for Eastern Chad to strengthen the humanitarian response while bolstering the development of regions most affected by the Sudan situation, reinforcing social cohesion and guaranteeing security.

Inter-Agency Response

In 2024, the protection-centred emergency response for new arrivals from Sudan will be scaled up and the most urgent resilience interventions needed to improve the living conditions of displaced communities and their hosts in eastern Chad will be pursued.
In support of the Government of Chad's response, and in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind', RRP partners will lead interventions to save lives and improve the living conditions of forcibly displaced communities and their hosts by working on three tracks:

Track 1

Providing an immediate response to the most urgent needs of the newly arrived refugees and returnees identified at the border in eastern Chad through an inter-agency emergency response coordinated by the Commission for National Reception and Reintegration of Refugees (CNARR) and UNHCR, with the support of RRP partners. The emergency response includes basic protection interventions such as physical headcount initial identification of people with specific needs through pre-registration activities by mobile teams and protection monitoring at the border and in spontaneous sites. The response also prioritizes, referral and assistance to those who have disclosed atrocities and survivors of violence, including GBV and other human rights violations. Assistance at the border also includes food distribution, screening and treatment for malnutrition, emergency water supply, borehole construction and emergency community latrines, mobile health clinics and vaccinations. As heavy rains can severely limit access during, measures will be maintained to strengthen services in temporary hosting villages for refugees who cannot be relocated, including pre-positioning food and non-food items. In addition, partners will provide appropriate assistance to newly arrived urban refugees, including professionals such as doctors, humanitarian workers, civil servants, and other self-employed workers.

Track 2

Relocating refugees and other arriving populations from insecure border areas and providing essential humanitarian services in both spontaneous and relocation sites. In collaboration with the government, areas have been identified to establish new settlements and relocate new arrivals to urgently decongest some spontaneous sites at the border. Partners are supporting the voluntary relocation of refugees to existing and newly established settlements, where efforts are ongoing to expand infrastructures and scale up a variety of services, including specialized protection services, and to continue the provision of assistance through a multisectoral response. Community-based structures are at the heart of the response. In addition, based on the informed decision of the individuals/households, RRP partners will relocate some new arrivals with specific protection risks to urban areas where they will receive multisectoral assistance. RRP partners will support the leadership of government in efforts to preserve the civilian and humanitarian character of the sites, including through training and awareness-raising activities.

Track 3

Focusing on solutions and resilience. While the government, and RRP partners continue to provide emergency humanitarian assistance and services to refugees, longer-term programmes will be launched to strengthen essential services, build government institutional capacity and resilience, support refugees and host communities with livelihood opportunities and facilitate their economic inclusion. By doing so, RRP partners aim to carry out interventions associated to sustainable development priorities in eastern Chad that go beyond the humanitarian response, foster peaceful coexistence and enhance community resilience.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Support the Government of Chad in maintaining access to territory and the civilian character of asylum.

SO2: Ensure a favourable protection environment where all refugees, returnees and third country nationals can realize their rights, protection risks are mitigated, and community-based structures actively participate in the response.

SO3: Provide essential humanitarian assistance and protection services to new arrivals, both in rural and urban areas, and support the inclusion of forcibly displaced people into national services, including health and education.

SO4: Promote self-reliance, livelihood opportunities, and economic inclusion of forcibly displaced communities and their hosts enabling them to meet their needs in safety and dignity through more sustainable and development-oriented interventions.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

UNHCR and CNARR continue to pre-register new arrivals at the border and conduct biometric registration for all refugees relocated to the newly established settlements. Registration and protection monitoring teams will continue working closely with government entities, including security and defence forces, and other humanitarian partners with expertise to preserve the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum at hosting sites with authorities and security forces conducting screening, separation of combatants, and community policing.

In coordination with the Government, RRP partners will continue to provide a variety of protection services. These will include pre-registration upon arrival in the country, to detect the most urgent needs and identify individuals with immediate protection needs; biometric registration upon relocation to refugee settlements with the issuance of refugee biometric ID cards and a national identification number in line with the social protection policy.

Identification and referral of individuals with specific protection needs will be enacted through registration activities as well as through empowered community-based structures. Issuance of civil status documentation, notably government-issued birth certificates will be supported. Sensitization campaigns will be conducted to promote peaceful coexistence, and two-way communication with communities will be enhanced, including through the dissemination of information on access to protection services. Within the framework of *Project 21*, partners will continue to undertake protection monitoring at the border and in refugee sites, to inform analysis, programming, and evidence-based advocacy on protection issues, with an aim to interview 15,000 households in 2024. In addition, access to legal assistance will be provided to refugees in need. The protection and solutions strategy related to this emergency is structured around three interlinked phases:

First phase: Head counts and pre-registration, provision of emergency assistance, on spontaneous sites and at the border. Emergency and life-saving protection services will be enhanced at transit points particularly for GBV prevention and response, and child protection. The impact of trauma will also be addressed in collaboration with ministries or their delegations in charge of social protection. UNHCR and partners will ensure refugees are included in national systems by: i) assessing the capacity of national structures; ii) strengthening national structures; iii) issuing a biometric ID to refugees and a national identification number as per the social protection policy.

Second phase: Setting up new refugee settlements and implementation of refugee relocation exercises, ensuring respect for protection principles. Supporting the relocation through consultation with refugees and returnees, sharing information with communities on the process, and highlighting protection risk mitigation, such as maintaining family unity, will be integral to this effort.

Third phase: Establishing or strengthening of protection services accessible in the settlements in close partnership with the ministries or their delegations in charge of social protection. Protection services will cover new arrivals and refugees in protracted situations.
Services for survivors of GBV will also be prioritized, in addition to child protection interventions such as family tracing, Best Interests Procedures and alternative care arrangements.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

RRP partners will provide child protection services at all stages, including the identification and support of children at heightened risk in spontaneous sites near the border, initiatives to avoid family separation during relocation, and holistic child protection packages in the settlements. Best Interests Procedures for children at risk will be established or reinforced, and the capacity of child protection staff will be enhanced to handle child protection cases, including establishment of an expert BID panel and regular submission for Best Interests panel decisions when required. Family-based alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied children will be sought, including through a foster system in which foster parents and families will receive assistance and parental education sessions.
Partners will set up fixed and mobile child-friendly spaces and early childhood centres to ensure children have a safe space to play, learn, and develop while also supporting community child protection structures. The number of facilitators for child-friendly spaces and early childhood centres, social workers, and supervisors will be increased, and staff will be trained to identify children at risk and safely provide referrals to specialized child protection services.

Child protection actors will coordinate their response to the needs of children at risk and will also work to prevent and mitigate violations against children through community-based child protection mechanisms. Partners will also monitor their collective response through data collection and analysis to strengthen evidence-based planning and advocacy.

Social workers and staff across all sectors will be trained in and supported on child protection mainstreaming in emergencies to improve the quality of their services. Furthermore, community leaders and security forces will be trained on children's rights and child protection principles with an emphasis on the protection of children affected by armed conflict through structured psychosocial support and medical care, family tracing and reunification, as well as the reintegration of children formerly associated with armed groups.

Sub-sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV)

RRP partners will strengthen the collective response to prevent and respond to GBV and will work across all sectors to mitigate GBV risks and to ensure GBV survivors have access to appropriate services. The GBV prevention and response strategy for the emergency includes three main sets of interventions:

(i) Provide GBV life-saving interventions and community-based prevention activities at the border sites.
(ii) Ensure women and girls have access to information on relocation and participate in the discussions; ensure that GBV risks are mitigated across the various sectoral interventions in the new settlements (shelters, etc.); and work with health sector to ensure GBV services are available in medical mobile service.
(iii) Provide holistic GBV programming in the settlements around a survivor centred GBV response, as well as community based GBV prevention, and GBV risk mitigation activities. This includes setting up quality GBV case management services, including coordinated care and multisectoral response services, strengthening GBV coordination to ensure better quality of GBV services and avoid duplication, including through a localized approach and stronger information management, working closely with the livelihoods sector to promote economic empowerment and resilience of women and girls, and advocating with national social services for refugee inclusion.

To mitigate the risks related to gathering firewood, projects that support access to domestic energy for women and girls will be prioritized. Training on GBV and GBV risk mitigation will be conducted for humanitarian actors, including national and local authorities, defence and security forces, as well as displaced and host communities. Such capacity-development initiatives will contribute to mainstream GBV risk mitigation standard across multiple sectors, including WASH, health, education, shelter, child protection, and livelihoods.

RRP partners have also conducted a mapping of available GBV-related services to establish referral pathways so that service providers across the emergency response can safely refer survivors to assistance, such as clinical management of rape, psychosocial support, legal assistance, safe accommodation, and livelihoods. In addition, community structures will be strengthened to expand protection coverage for GBV survivors and others who experienced human rights abuses.

GBV Sub-sector will ensure PSEA victims have access to GBV services through the established referral pathway and support the PSEA network in prevention activities.

Moreover, GBV not only affects the individual but has a devastating impact on families and the community at large. To strengthen GBV prevention, initiatives will be launched to engage men and boys as well as women and girls in behaviour change and gender transformative programmes over the long term to address the root causes of GBV. Innovative community-led initiatives for women and girls will focus on access to education, vocational training, livelihoods and empowerment with the goal to strengthen the resilience of women and girls.

GBV coordination will be strengthened both at local and national levels to improve our collective GBV response in this refugee emergency.

Education

To quickly and efficiently respond to education needs, RRP partners will support 600 temporary classrooms constructed with local materials on a compacted base foundation. These will gradually be converted to full brick classrooms. To improve school management, 3,000 teachers will be recruited and trained. Another 300 will be mentored to support newly recruited teachers to obtain their education certification in Chad. 60 administrative blocks will also be constructed and equipped.

RRP partners will also support school-aged children with 250,000 school kits. Teachers will also receive 250,000 aid kits. School feeding programmes will be reinforced to improve learning and attendance. RRP partners will work to mitigate risks of child protection, GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse, and provide school-based MHPSS. Education partners and the PSEA network will train teachers on how to safely identify and refer children at risk to appropriate child protection and GBV services including dedicated teacher training on PSEA. Dignity and hygiene kits will also be provided to girls to reduce absences during their menses.

Community engagement will involve working with parent associations, promoting children's participation, and mobilizing community leaders to increase school enrollment and retaintion. All education activities are implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Education and in accordance with Refugee Education 2030: A Strategy for Refugee Inclusion.[35]

Food Security

Food security partners will ensure that new arrivals receive hot meals for up to three days during the relocation process from the border areas to the settlements. In the settlements, refugees will continue to receive either in-kind or cash food assistance to cover 2,100 calorie intake per person per day. Most vulnerable food insecure Chadian families in hosting villages will also receive food assistance. The food assistance modalities will be appropriate to the location will be based on an analysis of market functionality. A risk analysis will also be carried out for interventions via cash transfers to mitigate negative effects and ensure compliance with the "do no harm" principle.

Given the heightened vulnerability of new arrivals and the most food-insecure host families, partners will supplement their emergency food assistance with nutritional assistance targeting children under two years and pregnant or breast-feeding women to prevent malnutrition.

In relocation sites, food security partners will support refugee and returnee community cooperatives with mills to facilitate the free processing of cereals into flour and support food consumption. Partners will also work with Sudanese refugees who are in a protracted situation to identify and assist the most vulnerable and food-insecure refugees amongst those who arrived before the current crisis. To contribute to food diversification, new arrivals will be supported to set up vegetable gardens and raise livestock at the household level.

Public Health & Nutrition

Public Health and Nutrition partners will support the Ministry of Health in providing quality primary health care – including curative care, preventive care, MHPSS, sexual and reproductive health – to refugees, returnees and the local population surrounding refugee sites. Malnourished children under five and pregnant or lactating women will also receive treatment.

All new arrivals will be screened for chronic or acute illnesses and receive treatment. At entry points, refugee children will be vaccinated against measles and polio and will receive a Vitamin A supplement and deworming treatment. Partners will also reinforce the routine immunization programme in all refugee settlements.

In addition, health partners will construct 10 health centres and rehabilitate or extend 13 others. Partners will purchase 15 ambulances, medicines, and reproductive health kits to support health facilities. Partners will also reinforce the implementation of the minimum emergency package for sexual and reproductive health, emergency and comprehensive obstetric and neonatal care, and clinical care for survivors of GBV. Partners will establish a referral mechanism for cases requiring secondary and tertiary care.

Health partners will support the Ministry of Health in implementing the national health human resources plan to increase the quantity and quality of health workers in refugee-hosting areas. To this end, partners will recruit

[35] https://www.unhcr.org/media/education-2030-strategy-refugee-education

700 health workers and support the certification of qualified refugees. Partners will also recruit community health workers to carry out prevention activities, support nutritional surveillance, and conduct integrated monitoring of diseases with epidemic potential at the community level.

Health partners will conclude a survey in the first quarter of 2024 and use the findings to adjust the nutrition response. Partners will also establish five new therapeutic nutrition units. They will produce tools and materials for the integrated management of malnutrition and distribute nutritional inputs to manage malnutrition cases. Health and Nutrition partners will also conduct active screening for children under five, pregnant women and nursing mothers. These actions will be supplemented by awareness-raising sessions on social and behavioural changes, infant and young child feeding, and regular malnutrition screening campaigns. Training will be provided on the management of integrated childhood illnesses, malnutrition, epidemiological surveillance, and emergency neonatal and obstetric care. All these interventions will be carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Health to accelerate and facilitate the gradual inclusion of refugees in the national health system.

RRP partners will lead efforts to strengthen the capacities of health district management teams and health centre management committees and advocate for the inclusion of refugees in national strategic and operational health plans. Health districts will receive support for collecting and analysing health data, including refugees, and the Ministry of Health will be lobbied to disaggregate refugee data which is currently being deployed.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion (LEI)

In a recent assessment, the World Bank identified the development of agropastoral value chains and small and medium enterprises as the most promising pathway to economic empowerment in Chad. Among forcibly displaced populations and host communities, those involved in agriculture are more likely to achieve sustainable livelihoods. RRP partners will therefore place particular emphasis on: (i) water management for agropastoral purposes; (ii) the development of agricultural value chains resilient to climate change; (iii) the development of small and medium enterprises, financial inclusion, and the employability of young people and women; (iv) restoration of degraded ecosystems and facilitation of access to sustainable energy sources; (v) strengthening social cohesion and peaceful coexistence; and (vi) strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of the State to promote solutions and inclusion. RRP partners will also advocate for the long-term inclusion of old and new refugees in the national social protection system. Coordination among all stakeholders, including the Government, development actors, the private sector, and civil society, will be essential to the response.
Women, youth and people living with disabilities will be prioritized because they are the main actors in the agropastoral sector in Chad and are responsible for both production and household consumption. To strengthen the productive, financial, and social capacities of these households, the “Resilience Funds” (CdR) approach will be used. This integrated approach promotes accountability, empowerment, and commitment of communities in the application of good agropastoral, nutritional, environmental, economic, and social cohesion practices. As a condition to participation, refugees will commit to apply certain good practices to gain access to credit systems, making it possible to achieve long-term objectives with short-term impacts. In addition, participants in the agropastoral projects will disseminate good practices to expand knowledge across their communities. These interventions will benefit 100,000 old and new refugees, returnees and host communities.

Besides agriculture, RRP partners will actively engage refugees and host communities in all sectors and during all stages of the response, empowering them to build on their resilience, capacities, skills and resources to deliver protection and assistance and develop and protect their livelihoods. Thus, refugees will be empowered to transform their emergency shelters into semi-durable ones. They will be trained to manage WASH services. RRP partners will also engage qualified refugees and host community members in education, health, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation services as paid community workers. Unskilled people will be engaged as daily labour in the establishment of sites and construction of shelters and infrastructures.

Settlement & Shelter/Housing

Shelter interventions will aim to ensure that every refugee household has access to a suitable living space, and adequate housing, to sustainably live with security and dignity. In support of the government, partners will build and strengthen services and infrastructure in both new and existing settlements. An estimated total of 110,000 additional emergency shelters are needed to house all refugees awaiting relocation in spontaneous sites near the border and anticipated new arrivals in 2024. RRP partners will also support 30,000 households with heightened vulnerability to transform their emergency shelter into a semi-durable shelter. RRP partners will also provide cash assistance to 10,000 vulnerable families in existing settlements to help them rehabilitate their shelters, and partners will also provide vulnerable refugee households whose shelters have been damaged with rehabilitation maintenance kits.
Shelters will be constructed in compliance with health, safety, accessibility, protection, and environmental standards to minimize risks and disasters. Community participation and capacity-building will ensure the sustainability of infrastructure. Measures will be taken to facilitate the inclusion of marginalized groups and individuals with specific needs in programme planning and implementation. Field-level coordination will be strengthened to improve emergency interventions and regular shelter activities.

Community shelters will also be constructed in transit centres and settlements to accommodate new arrivals who are waiting for their family shelters to be built, integrating GBV risk mitigating measures. The shelter strategy will integrate environmental protection activities that will be undertaken with community participation, including tree planting around shelters, protection of existing trees in settlements, waste management, drainage, and stove construction

Energy & Environment

Given the challenging environmental context, RRP partners and the Government of Chad need to integrate environmental issues in all interventions to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of environmental and energy challenges in all refugee settlements.

To this end, within the framework of environmental protection and climate actions, RRP partners will lead interventions to mitigate risks of deforestation, depletion of water resources and soil degradation as well as to the exposure to extreme weather events and to GBV risks. Partners will engage with the community to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems around refugee settlements, including by producing and planting 450,000 seedlings around the sites. Partners will work to promote alternative energy sources such as butane gas, solar energy, and energy-efficient cooking equipment such as Afrah stoves. Community outreach activities and education activities will also aim to promote awareness about environmental protection.

Water, Hygiene & Sanitation (WASH)

RRP partners aim to ensure that all refugees have access to water, hygiene, and sanitation infrastructure to meet their essential needs while preventing waterborne disease. For immediate interventions in spontaneous settlements and during the initial stage of camp installation, WASH partners plan to rent 20 tankers of 20 cubic meters and install 120 polyethylene tanks equipped with distribution ramps to supply water to refugees. A total of 62 boreholes – including 42 in organized settlements and 20 in spontaneous sites and host villages – will be drilled and equipped with hybrid pumps operated first by generators before installing solar energy systems.

In the medium term, partners will construct water distribution networks and install large-scale water storage reservoirs to meet the water needs of all populations. WASH actors will install 40 km of water pipes in the new settlements, 30 km of pipe extension in the old settlements, and will construct 44 storage reservoirs. A piezometric groundwater monitoring system will be set up by WASH actors in the refugee settlements. Additionally, 20 water retaining structures will be built in different settlements to promote groundwater recharge and improve the resilience of refugee settlement areas through the creation of livelihood-strengthening conditions such as gardening and animal production.

For sanitation, RRP partners will construct 500 blocks of communal latrines of four to six drop halls each at the spontaneous sites. The blocks will be segregated for females and males. In the settlements, a total of 31,250 latrines will be built to provide one latrine for every four households. Water, hygiene and sanitation services for Sudanese refugees in long-term displacement will focus on the care and maintenance of existing water systems, support to rehabilitate latrines, as well as waste management.

Finally, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and local authorities, a community system for water supply management will be established or strengthened in the old and new settlements.

The proposed activities are based on the emergency needs considering cultural and social factors while respecting humanitarian standards and protection principles. The emergency programmes will be strengthened by building community empowerment to ensure the sustainability of interventions and the resilience of crisis-affected communities. Community resilience will be emphasized through the construction of sustainable infrastructures, as well as by involving refugees and host communities for each phase of the implementation process.

Basic Needs

Partners will distribute essential household items, such as blankets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, mattresses, mosquito nets, and solar lamps, to support new arrivals and individuals with specific needs. Cash transfers will be used in areas where markets are functional and accessible to refugees. Where possible, cash-based interventions will contribute to market revitalization, involve host communities in the response, and promote the dignity of refugees. In Chad, multipurpose cash assistance is already provided to Sudanese refugee families in urban settings, and there are plans to expand the assistance to other areas.

For completing housing and in reference to the 2023 gaps analysis, an estimated total of 180,000 additional NFIs kits are needed for all refugees who were not assisted in 2023 and for anticipated new arrivals in 2024. This will also cover the renewal of damaged items for persons with specific needs.

Logistics, Supply & Telecommunications

Logistical capacity has been strengthened throughout 2023 to ensure the transport and pre-positioning of core relief items at strategic locations for rapid deployment. RRP partners will further enhance logistical capacity as the influx continued.

In 2024, partners will support the relocation 440,000 new refugees fleeing the conflict in Sudan to safer locations in Chad. In addition to the hub in Abeche, additional warehouse space is needed to reinforce distribution, especially during the rainy season. While refugees will be relocated using rented trucks and light vehicles, the purchase of fuel, spare parts and procurement of trucks will also be pursued to reduce the high cost of truck rental fees.

The Refugee Emergency Telecoms Sector will also continue improving connectivity for partners through the installation of satellite-based internet services. Site surveys have been conducted by a local mobile network operator (Moov Africa) to explore extending VHF coverage in some sites and deploying security communication equipment.

Assistance for Returning Chadian Refugees & Migrants

Chadian returnees are Chadian nationals who were living in the western regions of Sudan before the start of the Sudan crisis in April 2023. Most had lived in Sudan for decades, some running small businesses or practising subsistence farming. After the outbreak of violence, particularly in the Darfur region, returnees were forced to flee back to Chad. Despite their Chadian nationality, many of the returnees no longer have family ties or links to towns or villages in Chad. Moreover, as Chadian citizens, returnees are not in need of international refugee protection, while they have been displaced by and exposed to the same violence as Sudanese nationals. This places returnees in a position of extreme vulnerability. According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), 52 per cent of returnees are women and girls, and 67 per cent are under the age of 18. Moreover, 91 per cent of the returnee households are headed by women. Returnees to Chad have limited options, with over 97 per cent indicating that they do not want to go back to Sudan in the near future due to the violence, yet the minimal social and community ties and fragile bonds associated with prolonged settlement in Sudan make it difficult for them to return sustainably.

Although border communities in the provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira have welcomed the returning population, the influx has put significant pressure on resources such as drinking water, health and education services, and arable land. Before the conflict in Sudan, education, health and protection services in these provinces were scarce, and the influx of new arrivals has created competition between host communities. After the

rainy season, many returnees began to leave spontaneous displacement sites to settle in consolidated communities, mainly in the provinces of Ouaddaï and Sila, in the communities of Tongori and Deguessa, respectively. IOM is supporting the Government to meet the needs of returnees, particularly in these new communities.

IOM estimates that over 93,700 Chadian returnees have crossed the border into Chad since the start of the crisis in Sudan and expects this number to rise to 170,000 by the end of 2024. In coordination with CNARR, IOM has registered 93,700 returnees in 37 localities in the three provinces mentioned above. Most returnees are in urgent need of food, WASH, shelter, NFIs, health and protection.

In the immediate term, IOM will provide multisectoral life-saving assistance to new arrivals according to the needs identified through assessments. In the medium term, IOM will also focus on the local integration of returnees into existing communities in Chad, where returnee and host communities will receive improved access to public services and community infrastructure, thereby reducing competition over scarce resources, fostering social cohesion and bolstering community resilience to current and future shocks.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
  - Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion
  - Sub-Section: Youth
  - Sub- Section: Older People
- Accountability to Affected People (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Climate Action
- Cash Assistance

Read more in the Regional Overview pp. 16 -17

Community Mobilization

Community mobilization will be instrumental in the implementation of multisectoral response to ensure communities actively and meaningfully participate in all aspects of programmes affecting them. If communities affected by crises are empowered, they are in a stronger position to protect and support their families, promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence with host communities, respond to the aspirations of young people, and rebuild their lives.

RRP partners will regularly involve communities in assessments to review protection risks applying an AGD lens to inform programming and take community-based actions to address these risks. Partners will also work with community leaders to identify, refer and support persons with specific needs within their communities, and will support and strengthen structures that are already in place to avoid creating parallel systems while ensuring that the existing structures are fair, inclusive and reflect the community's diversity.

To ensure Accountability to Affected People, partners will work closely with the community to reinforce the existing two-way communication mechanisms (hotline, email, whatsApp communication tree, face-to-face communication) that ensures that everyone – including women, girls, older people, people with disabilities and other potentially marginalized groups – has access to relevant information on assistance and services through adequate communication channels and modalities as identified by the communities. Complaints and feedback mechanisms will also be put in place, and various participatory methodologies will be used to ensure that all members of the community are aware of and have opportunities to participate in decision-making. Community-led initiatives will be encouraged to empower refugee communities, refugee associations will be supported in line with the localization agenda, with the ultimate goal of building capacity and transferring skills to refugee actors.

By empowering communities affected by crises, they will be better equipped to support their families, promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence with host communities, respond to the aspirations of young people, and rebuild their lives. Community mobilization will mainstream an AGD approach across sectors.

Cash Assistance

Most refugees and returnees in Chad live in environments where they have access to markets and services on par with local communities. Despite limited market capacity in some areas especially in new settlements, cash transfers will be prioritized to help displaced populations access food, water, health care, and shelter, all of which empower them to realize their rights and increase their well-being. RRP partners will continue to employ cash as the main modality for delivering assistance in this emergency, which aligns with the Grand Bargain commitment to increase the use of cash assistance globally.

RRP partners will continue to collect data from market assessments and real-time monitoring (market and protection) to ensure the availability of up-to-date information to determine the most efficient means of cash transfers and inform decision-making and potential for scaling up cash assistance.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan and the potential escalation of conflict near border areas requires the following actions:

- Reinforce coordination among partners implementing CBI in this refugee setting to increase efficiencies.
- Continuous engagement and collaboration with national and local authorities and affected populations to ensure their buy-in during the design, implementation, and monitoring of CBI.
- Continuous collaboration with all stakeholders in key CBI activities, including market assessments, risk analysis, targeting, data sharing, and potential for joint programming.
- Mitigate potential risks related to cash assistance by monitoring all CBI programmes
- Stronger involvement of community-based protection mechanisms to strengthen risk management.
- Mainstream CBI in the sectoral response strategy.

In line with the Cash Coordination Model, UNHCR will continue to play its strategic role by providing protection data and coordinating the cash working group in refugee settings and by engaging other partners in a collaborative approach which promotes complementarity and avoid duplication.

Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus

The development component of the response aims to achieve short and medium-term progress on sustainable development priorities that support the humanitarian response. From the first phases of the emergency, this component aims to improve socioeconomic recovery and strengthen resilience of communities through sustainable livelihood initiatives. The RRP is guided by the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, which aims to promote effective coordination among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach from the start of a crisis.

Effective coordination with development partners will be strengthened to facilitate the search for solutions for populations fleeing Sudan. Such solutions foster self-reliance and socioeconomic inclusion of refugees by easing the pressure on host communities and supporting host governments in their response.

Potential areas of support include development needs assessment; expansion of education, health, justice and policing, water and sanitation services and vocational training; and capacity-building for national and local governments, on institutional support. RRP partners will leverage the knowledge and experience of development actors already working in Chad, and advocate for the expansion of their programs to refugee hosting areas.

Partnership and Coordination

Through the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR and its partners collaborate to support national and local authorities, who continue to welcome refugees and are leading efforts to address the needs of all those who have crossed the border in search of safety. In Chad, the inter-agency emergency response takes place under the aegis of the Commission for National Reception and Reintegration of Refugees (CNARR), in close collaboration and coordination with the Ministry for Economic Prospect and International Partnerships, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Good Governance, and the Ministry for Public Security and Immigration. CNARR serves as the government interface between humanitarian partners, local authorities, and decentralized state services at the provincial level.

While the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) provides overall leadership for the humanitarian response, the UNHCR Representative leads the refugee response.
At the technical and operational level, the following was agreed on the division of coordination responsibilities:

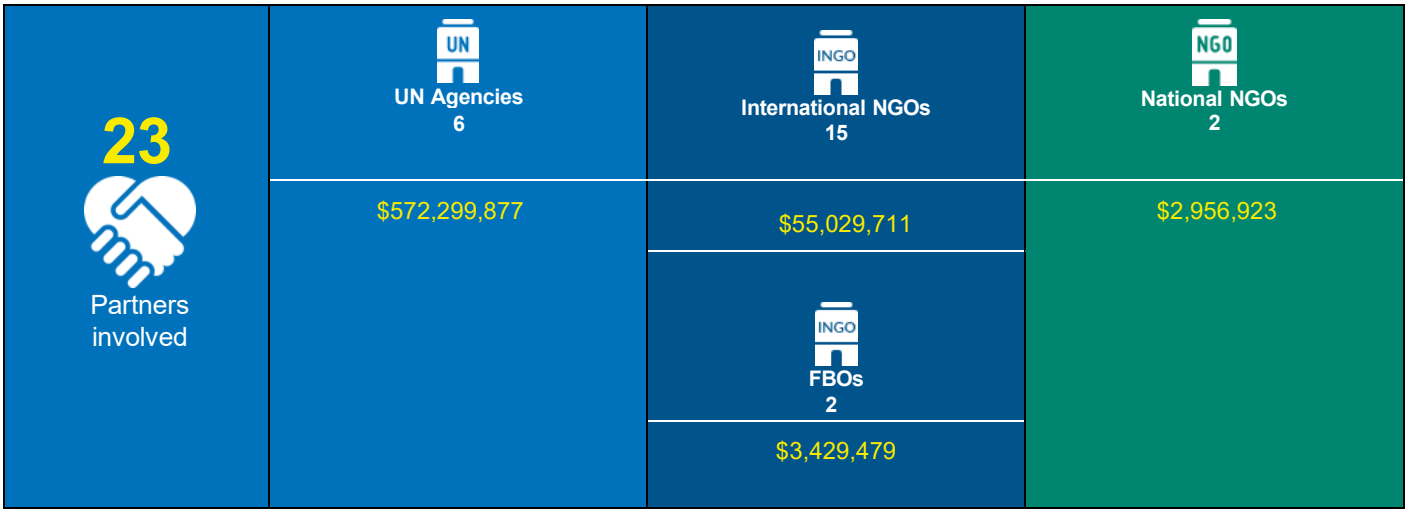
- Refugee response (UNHCR)
- Returnee response (IOM)
- Host communities and other affected populations (OCHA and UNDP).

UNHCR also leads sectoral coordination of Protection, Shelter/NFI, WASH, and Health.

Every two weeks, a comprehensive coordination at national level overseen by UNHCR, CNARR, and IOM takes place to address the multifaceted needs of the refugees and the returnee migrants. This coordination meeting serves as a platform for strategic planning, resource allocation and the exchange of critical information and in alternating weeks sector specific meetings are conducted, delving into the nuances of various areas such as protection: gender-based violence and child protection, education, shelter/NFI, WASH and health.

Furthermore, to ensure effective implementation and responsiveness to localized challenges, parallel general coordination and sectoral meetings are also convened at the field level, fostering a comprehensive and collaborative approach to address the complex needs of the forcibly displaced populations and their host communities.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements



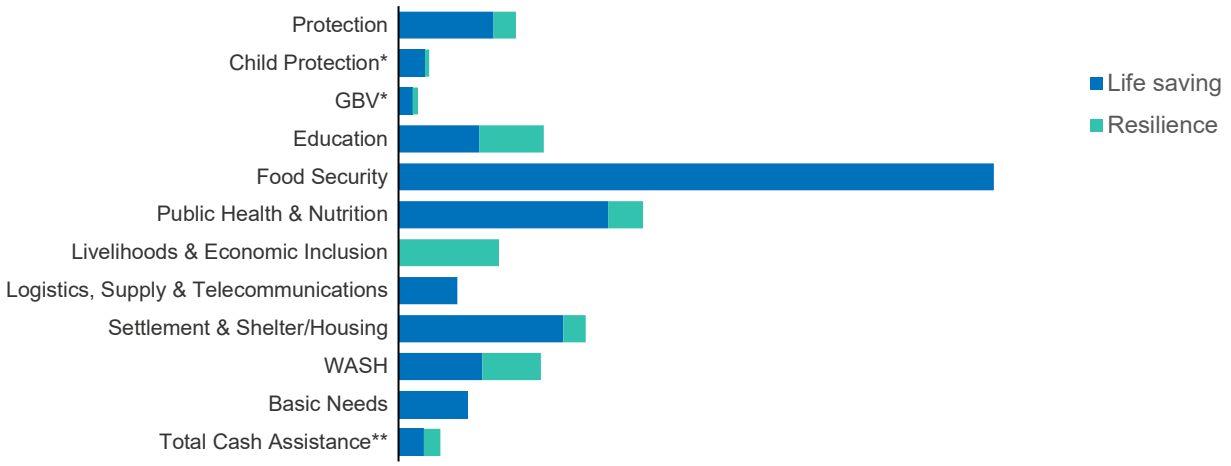
Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP. Many other national and local actors, including grassroots organizations collaborate with RRP partners to carry out RRP activities.

Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	***Life Saving***	***Resilience/Systems Strengthening***	***Total in USD***
Protection	$34,174,604	$7,947,424	$42,122,028
• *Of which is Child Protection*	$9,548,915	$1,527,366	$11,076,281
• *Of which is GBV*	$5,244,829	$2,225,308	$7,470,137
Education	$29,265,313	$22,886,173	$52,151,486
Food Security	$213,913,677		$213,913,677
Public Health and Nutrition	$75,056,869	$12,542,354	$87,599,223
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion		$35,712,751	$35,712,751
Logistics, Supply and Telecommunications	$20,640,632		$20,640,633
Settlement and Shelter/Housing	$59,882,752	$8,136,455	$68,019,207
WASH	$30,334,572	$21,102,455	$51,437,027
Basic Needs	$24,690,480	-	$24,690,480
Assistance for Returning Chadian Refugees and Migrants	$29,815,959	$4,184,041	$34,000,000
Total	***$517,774,858***	***$112,511,653***	***$630,286,511***

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget*

*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in USD
National NGO			**2,956,923**
ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	ACID	NNGO	956,923
AGENCE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL	ADES	NNGO	2,000,000
International NGO			**55,029,711**
ACRA FOUNDATION	ACRA	INGO	708,205
AGENCY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT	ACTED	INGO	6,155,364
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES	CRS	INGO/FBO	1,907,000
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT	CIAUD	INGO	3,540,000
CONCERN WORLDWIDE	CWW	INGO	1,238,930
LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION	FLM	INGO/FBO	1,522,479
COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE	COOPI	INGO	1,000,000
GOOD NEIGHBORS	GN	INGO	500,000
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE	IRC	INGO	1,057,244
INTERSOS	INTERSOS	INGO	4,785,000
NORWEGIAN REFUGEES COUNCIL	NRC	INGO	7,150,000
OXFAM INTERNATIONAL	Oxfam	INGO	4,183,555
PLAN INTERNATIONAL	PI	INGO	2,000,000
SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL	SI	INGO	1,721,056

WORLD RELIEF	WR	INGO	17,560,878
United Nations			**572,299,877**
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND	UNFPA	UN	5,225,308
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND	UNICEF	UN	34,042,024
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION	IOM	UN	34,000,000
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES	UNHCR	UN	214,800,000
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	WFP	UN	278,232,545
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	WHO	UN	6,000,000
Total USD			**630,286,511**

Egypt
Country Chapter

Abdallah (79) is a retired Sudanese engineer who fled violence in Khartoum and arrived in Egypt in July 2023 in search of safety. He approached the UNHCR registration centre in Cairo, together with his daughter Sherin and his grandson, where they were registered as asylum-seekers. “If there was peace, I would like to return to my country, but I can't now due to the situation”, Abdallah says.

©UNHCR/ Jaime Gimennez

AT A GLANCE

Egypt Planned Response

January- December 2024

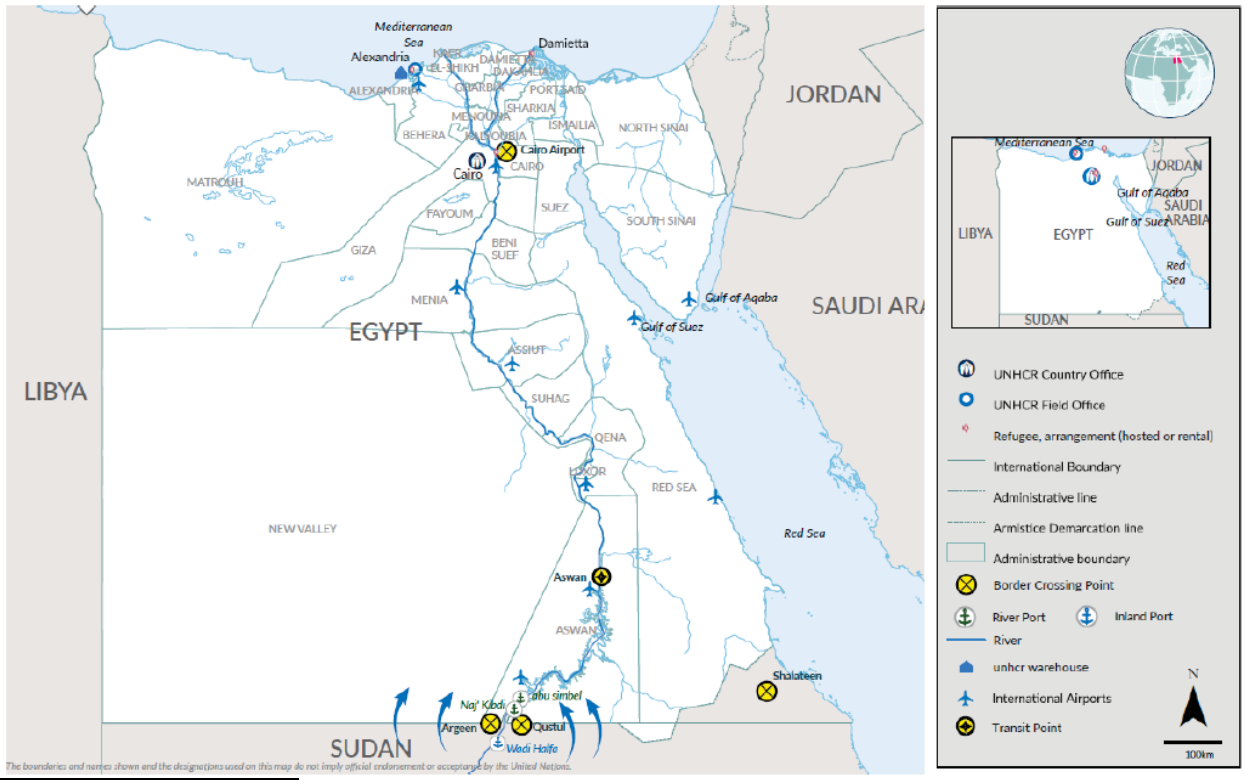
640 K[36]
Refugees

6 K
Third Country Nationals

73 K
Host community

USD
183.1 M
Total financial requirements

27
RRP Partners

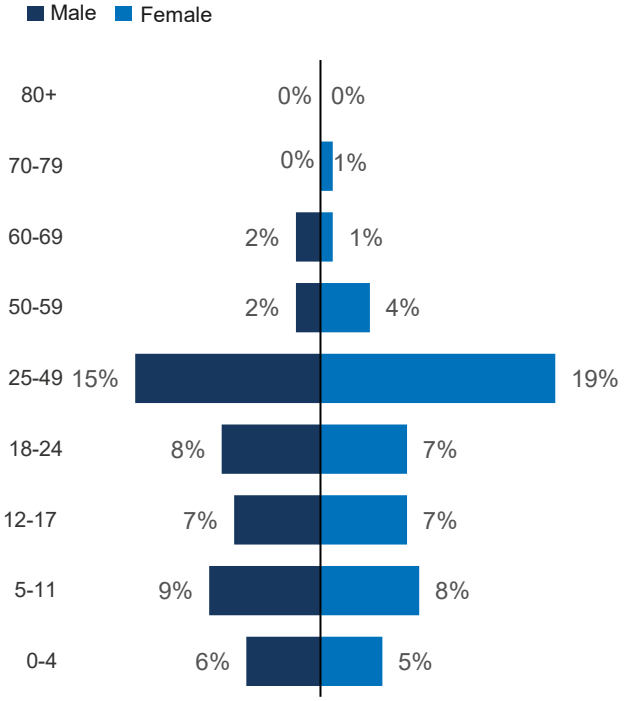


[36] *The response for refugees from Sudan is also included in the Country RRP for Egypt, which reflects the inter-agency response for all refugees in Egypt.*

Population Planning Figures

Country	Sudanese refugees pre-15 April 2023	New Arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end 2024
Refugee Population	60,779	400,000	640,000[37]
Third-Country Nationals		9,000	6,000
Host Community			73,456
Total projected population in need			**719,456**

Age and gender breakdown



22%
People with disabilities

52%
Women and girls

48%
Men and boys

42%
Children

[37] *The population to be assisted through this RRP is a subset of the larger number of total estimated arrivals from Sudan.*

MID-YEAR UPDATE

Highlights

The number of the new arrivals from Sudan remains high with an average of 600 individuals crossing the borders at Arqeen and Qostul every day. The operation has also observed a sharp increase in the number of Sudanese who approach UNHCR's offices for protection and registration. By the end of May, 367,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR. The numbers registered just in May were over 38,000 new arrivals from Sudan, and it is expected that the numbers will increase in the coming months, including the thousands of asylum-seekers in Sudan who have already been given appointments for registration. **The increase in Sudanese coming forward for registration has led to the numbers for the projected refugee population to be assisted through the RRP as at the end of 2024 to have almost doubled from 363,000 to 640,000.**

The increase in the population planning figure is based on:

- The number of the Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers who have been registered to date.
- The monthly average number of asylum-seekers whom UNHCR registered in the last few months.
- The number of Sudanese new arrivals who have been provided with registration appointments.
- The trend of daily new arrivals from Sudan.

RRP appealing partners have only slightly increased their targets and required budgets for additional assistance as due to the level of funding for the response to date, they already do not expect to be able to deliver the full range of services in the plan. **Overall, the budget for the response in Egypt has increased from USD 175 million to USD 183 million.**

Registration is a crucial step towards regularizing stay as this is required to apply for a residence permit in Egypt, which can take more than a year to obtain. Residence permits are valid for a maximum of six months. The inability of people in need of international protection to regularize their stay, including timely documentation and residency issuance/renewal, has resulted in the lack of a sense of security and restricted freedom of movement, due to the risk of arrest, detention, and deportation. It has also limited access to basic services, including housing, education, health, and justice. This, along with few livelihood opportunities, has driven many refugees and asylum-seekers to move onwards to Libya, with a 221 per cent increase compared to the same period last year. A surge in the number of recorded arrests in 2024 was also noted, with a 291.5 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2023.

Consequences of underfunding

As of June, the response in Egypt is 33 per cent funded.

Lack of adequate funding affects all sectors in Egypt, including:

- The health sector is severely impacted, leaving at least 5,677 refugees and asylum-seekers without access to medication for chronic conditions and mental health and psychosocial support services. In addition, 1,162 refugee and asylum-seeker women are not receiving antenatal care services, putting both mothers and their unborn children at high risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

- 74,570 school-aged refugee children are not enrolled in schools and approximately 5,380 unaccompanied and separated children and children with special needs are not reached with educational programmes, denying them the specialized support they require for their development and well-being.

- Access to government-run public schools is a serious challenge due to a lack of absorption capacity and a lack of funding to construct additional classrooms that would improve access for refugee students.

- 2,095 persons with disabilities have not received necessary assistive devices, limiting their mobility and independence.

- 3,175 refugees and asylum-seekers are not provided with psychosocial support, leaving them without crucial mental health care and coping mechanisms.
- 4,315 unaccompanied and separated children, which is 59 per cent of the total number registered, are not receiving child protection case management services, leaving children subject to more protection risks.
- 716,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are not receiving vital protection services. This gap leaves them vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and legal uncertainties, undermining their safety and stability within the host community.
- 65 per cent of identified GBV cases do not receive case management services, critical for their protection and recovery. Additionally, 1,591 individuals at risk of GBV and survivors are not benefiting from emergency safe housing, exposing them to continued violence and instability.

Priority needs

Shelter, GBV and child protection as well as education are the most pressing needs. Reinforcing reception and registration capacities are also key priorities.

Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) is an essential support, particularly for vulnerable refugees to meet their most basic needs—therefore increased cash support is also a priority need. Without this support, families cannot afford basic necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing. Some 83,885 Sudanese individuals (29,809 households) categorized as extremely poor or poor are not receiving bi-monthly MPCA due to lack of funding and are unable to meet their basic needs, exposing them to protection risks.

Other forms of cash support include:

Education Grants: Children are unable to attend school without financial support, perpetuating cycles of poverty and illiteracy.

Monthly Cash Assistance for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASCs): Without assistance, these children are left with no means to secure their daily needs, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.
GBV Cash Assistance:
If not available, survivors of gender-based violence will be deprived of financial aid essential for their recovery and independence.

Emergency Cash Support: Required, particularly in times of crisis as families cannot access immediate funds needed to survive. This financial strain exacerbates their hardship, leading to increased food insecurity, poor living conditions, and heightened stress.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

The Arab Republic of Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Refugee Convention. Cooperation between the Government of Egypt and UNHCR was formalized in 1954 through a Memorandum of Understanding. In the same vein, for over five decades UNDP has been supporting the Egyptian Government and people in striving towards sustainable development, providing expert advice at the policy level as well as grassroots interventions on the ground.

As of end of December 2023, 472,800 refugees and asylum-seekers from 62 nationalities were officially registered with UNHCR in Egypt. The Sudanese refugee population is now the largest with 207,833 individuals, having surpassed the Syrian population at the end of October. Since the start of the crisis in Sudan, UNHCR has also registered a total of 171,473 individuals, including 138,116 who arrived after mid-April and 33,357 who entered Egypt prior to mid-April. Most new arrivals registered originate from Khartoum (89 per cent), and 22 per cent of those registered have one or more specific protection need—with a continued rise both in the proportion (73.2 per cent) of registered individuals who report having no legal documentation and an increase in the number who report entering irregularly (63 per cent). To be registered as refugees and receive assistance, newly arrived refugees fleeing Sudan, including Sudanese and third country nationals, must travel from the border to Cairo, where UNHCR's registration offices are located, which puts a serious financial burden on individuals and households as well as a critical protection risk for those undocumented and/or for those who entered irregularly.
Negotiations are ongoing with the Government to make the registration process possible for those currently residing in southern Egypt. Moreover, such an option would help alleviate fears of detention for individuals who entered the country irregularly, particularly unaccompanied and separated children. In addition, communication services notably info lines to provide information and registration appointments for new arrivals from Sudan, have been significantly reinforced, facilitating from May to December 2023 through this tool, 50,385 registration appointments for 123,561 individuals.

Since the start of the conflict in Sudan, UNHCR staff have also observed an increase in Sudanese households who were previously rejected, or previously abandoned or withdrew their claims, requesting that their files be reopened — a 650 per cent increase compared to before the crisis. Cases have been reopened based on the prioritization of vulnerabilities and exposure to protection risks, including children with disabilities, women at risk and people with serious medical needs.

The overall socioeconomic context in Egypt is at a critical juncture. Egypt has experienced economic hardship as the tourism industry, one of the primary sources of revenue for the country, has been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The current crisis in Gaza and the repercussions on the commercial traffic through the Suez Canal due to the insecurity along the maritime Red Sea route may further aggravate this situation. Global factors have also impacted on the supply of goods, with higher prices leading to a spike in inflation and consequent financial hardship for nationals as well as refugees. Within the context of a no encampment policy and living a largely urban environment, many Sudanese refugees struggle to meet their basic needs, especially due to scarcity of accommodation and the cost of rent, with the majority living in sub-standard conditions as a result. Access to job opportunities is also constrained in the current macroeconomic situation, affecting both Sudanese refugees and host community members. Socioeconomic challenges and destitution in return add further strain on government services. Addressing the needs of both refugees and vulnerable communities, reinforcing their resilience and supporting national/local government capacities to provide services, also to contribute to mitigate any possible social tensions, are key priorities of the Egypt Refugee Response Plan. Individual protection case management will be expanded and outsourced to partners to ensure targeted individualized support to identified persons in vulnerable situations such as people with disabilities, older people and women at risk. Targeted assistance through case management will include psychosocial and material support as well as rehabilitative services for inclusion in their community.

Within their respective mandates, UN agencies are aligning their interventions with Egypt's Vision 2030 Egypt 2030 - SDS Egypt 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), in sectors such as protection, including gender-based violence (GBV), mixed movement, climate solutions change/adaptation, and logistics, among others. This Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is also built on the experience of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for the Syria situation coordination and cooperation structures and mechanisms. Key to the success of the RRP is the collaboration under the Refugee Coordination Model with civil society organizations, including refugee-led organizations and women-led organizations, IFIs, the private sector, UNCT and donors. In adopting this holistic approach, the RRP will operationalize the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN).

Country Risks and Needs

Labour force participation and employment rates remain below potential at 42.6 per cent and 39.6 per cent of the working-age population, respectively. The Sudan conflict is likely to negatively impact the Egyptian economy and have a ripple effect on the already high food prices affecting the most vulnerable and leading to more malnutrition. Increased burden on public utilities, education, health services, infrastructure, and jobs, is expected to put a strain on the budget, government services, and on households of host communities.
Throughout 2023 more than 50 inter-agency assessments were conducted by various partners and agencies involving refugees, asylum-seekers, newly arrived displaced people from various nationalities, and host communities across Cairo, Alexandria, Aswan, Giza and Damietta. The objectives of these participatory exercises included understanding the overall views, concerns, risks, needs and response gaps faced by newly arrived refugees. The methodologies used included participatory assessments, rapid needs assessments, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, observations and consultations during field missions, studies, surveys, secondary data reviews and post distribution monitoring exercises. The analysis of needs also benefitted from data and information shared by the Government and by other humanitarian and development actors. In 2024, a consolidated and coordinated holistic inter-agency Multi-sector Need Assessments (MSNA), targeting refugees and vulnerable host community members is planned to avoid assessment fatigue, and possibly allowing for comparison with the 2023 data.

Over 17 protection-related assessments were also conducted by partners involving around 4,416 forcibly displaced people, including Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers. These assessments found that access to territory for those fleeing Sudan remains the main challenge. Since 10 June 2023, the Government of Egypt has required that all Sudanese have a valid passport and an entry visa. Another challenge is access to refugee documentation due to high numbers of requests for new registration and renewals, which is required for protection services and basic assistance. Additional support is therefore needed to scale up registration capacity. Sudanese present in the country before the crisis are also expected to face challenges in renewing their documentation to maintain their legal status as refugees.
Protection risks for new arrivals, particularly women and children, may increase due to the lack of a stable and predictable protection environment and the expected continuation of individauls seeking registration and other services. More than half of new arrivals (53 per cent) are female headed households –this is higher than the 46 per cent for the overall refugee and asylum-seeker population. Additionally, amongst the specific needs captured, the child-at-risk category is second after “no legal documentation”. Consequently, MHPSS needs have been on the rise, as well as service inclusion for persons with specific needs and overall access to public services. Children on the move are significantly affected by a narrowing protection space, stemming from challenges regarding legal entry, the increase in smuggling/trafficking for undocumented individuals, cost of maintaining legal residency and housing limitations. This leads to an array of heightened protection risks, which encompass various forms of violence, including sexual violence, threats of detention and deportation, trafficking, child labour, including in its worst forms, and child marriage.

Barriers to access health care, including high medical expenses for secondary and tertiary health interventions, will increase the vulnerability of refugees and displaced people who present chronic conditions or diseases. Although refugees are included in the national health care system, they face challenges in accessing secondary and tertiary health services. There is a high proportion of new Sudanese arrivals with chronic health conditions. Additionally, survivors of GBV experience difficulties in accessing medical services due to capacity and expertise limitations, especially at the border areas where they cannot access immediate medical care for treatment, and they are referred to services in Cairo, with financial implications and risk of further health-related complications.

WASH partners’ joint assessments and data collected from the Ministry of Health and Population, and from the Egyptian Red Crescent indicated the lack of drinking water and water sources, deficiencies in some sanitation facilities, including gender-sensitive measures, significant demand for the improvement of cleaning services, need for waste management, and the lack of access to hygiene, dignity, and baby kits, especially at the border areas. There is also a need for additional water tanks, rehabilitation of water sources, and for power supply problems affecting hospitals, clinics, and primary health care units to be addressed.

Based on a Ministerial Decree No. 284 issued by the Ministry of Education in 2014, which was renewed on an annual basis every September Sudanese including refugees and asylum-seekers were among the few categories who were exceptionally allowed to enrol in the public schools on an equal footing with nationals. However, due to the increased burden on the Government, and the lack of the capacity of the schools, this decision was not renewed in September 2023, with detrimental consequences on access to education and on overall well-being of children. The high fees in private schools and the limited capacity of community schools significantly affect the education of children and university school students, causing a considerable amount of distress to refugee children and their families.
Upon strong advocacy from the partners, on 20 November 2023, the Minister of Education and Technical education of Egypt issued a circular No. 39, which stipulates that

refugee students would be exceptionally enrolled in Egyptian public schools; however, this is subject to submitting proof of their status. This mean that refugee students should possess valid documents, including UNHCR registration cards and residency. Asylum-seekers and refugee students should provide a confirmation letter from UNHCR to be enrolled in schools, which in turn increase the demands on expanding the registration system.

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy

Role of the Government

Egypt has a long tradition of welcoming and hosting significant numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers including Sudanese and 62 other nationalities. UNHCR has been supporting the Government to lead the humanitarian response with the cooperation of UN agencies, the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), national and international organizations, refugee-led organizations, women-led organizations, host communities and the Egyptian Red Crescent. In 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will begin co-leading the RRP in Egypt with UNHCR and UNDP. Based on its extensive experience built through the 3RP, UNDP will particularly focus on the resilience-based development approach of the response to complement the humanitarian activities.
The Government has adopted the "Leave No One behind" guiding principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is reflected in the "Egypt Vision 2030", the Government's plan for long-term sustainable development, which is aligned also to the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Egypt 2023-2027, laying out the World Bank Group's strategy in the country for 2023–2027. The new CPF also reflects the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2050.

In the spirit of responsibility-sharing that has been laid out in the Global Refugee Compact, the government is committed to the pledges made in 2019 and additional pledges made in December 2023 at the Global Refugee Forum on (i) Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Displacement: Toward Sustaining Peace in Africa (multi-State pledge); and (ii) Integrating Forced Displacement in Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict, Reconstruction and Development Efforts in Africa: Towards Advancing the Operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. Egypt works closely with humanitarian and development partners to operationalize the pledges made so far on health to ensure universal health insurance for refugees (the same as for citizens); to register 80,000 refugee children in public schools and provide technical training and workshops aiming at inclusion of refugees in society, thus reinforcing social cohesion between refugees and host communities.

Inter-Agency Response

The RRP Protection and Solutions Strategy in Egypt is aligned with the "Egypt Vision for 2030" and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) as well as to the Global Compact on Refugees. and supports the Government's efforts to implement its 2019 and 2023 GRF pledges. Ahead of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, RRP partners facilitated a preparatory process, including taking stock of the implementation of existing pledges, identifying challenges, lessons learned and good practices garnering additional support for existing commitments and identifying new transformative commitments which will advance protection and solutions in Egypt. The RRP strategy includes protection interventions aimed at safeguarding access to territory and the asylum space, and RRP partners will continue to work to strengthen registration and documentation also to facilitate refugees' access to national social services, labour markets, and financial services. Community-based protection mechanisms will be supported to establish two-way communication with the refugee communities, assess needs, identify individuals at heightened protection risk, provide information and support referrals to specialized services. Community-based protection approaches will also be pursued to prevent GBV by engaging men and boys and challenging harmful social norms and attitudes. Partners will continue to mitigate and address GBV risks through a multisectoral, AGD approach by engaging women, men, and boys, and girls of diverse backgrounds to identify barriers and challenges in leadership and participation. This includes access to reproductive health, menstrual health and hygiene services, retention of girls in education, and initiatives for girl-child education, including scholarships.

The Protection Working Group (PWG) and sub-working groups have strengthened case management capacities to enable more focus on those most vulnerable., as well The inter-sector coordination has improved, as has the of community leaders and recognized refugee-led organizations, all who have focused on harmonized triage to prioritize urgent cases and consistent multi-sector packaging of assistance. This has helped ensure that the needs of children/youth, old persons and those with disabilities receive due attention and support with respect to urgent registration/documentation, emergency cash assistance, special housing allowance and attention with

respect to health and education access. This close collaboration will become even more vital in 2024 as new arrivals and in-situ Sudanese continue to seek registration and other services, while resources dwindle.

The RRP strategy will also seek to reinforce social cohesion, resilience and solutions for forcibly displaced people and host communities. Partners will also seek greater refugee and asylum-seeker inclusion in national social services, particularly in the Health and Education sectors To attain these objectives, national and local public institutions (e.g. technical support, infrastructure rehabilitation) require support and interventions must be undertaken in coordination and with the support of development actors, including the World Bank, the European Union, the government and other multi-lateral and bilateral partners.

In the spirit of burden sharing, resettlement and complementary pathways remain key components in the pursuit of durable solutions for the most vulnerable refugees. Based on current registration trends, it is estimated that in 2024, approximately 30 per cent of all registered asylum-seekers and refugees will be identified as most vulnerable—including those at risk of detention and deportation, GBV survivors, survivors of torture, as well as individuals and households with special needs with limited protection and response capacity in-country. Considering the identified needs, multi-year resettlement commitments are needed from States, as well as flexibility of resettlement quotas, and accelerated resettlement processing and departure arrangements. Other safe and legal pathways to third countries will continue to be explored in 2024. These efforts will be aimed at enabling refugees and asylum-seekers to travel out of Egypt for work, education, family reunification and private sponsorship, among others.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Preserve asylum space and promote international refugee standards and protection principles, including refugee-hosting; supporting alternative temporary stay arrangements; providing protection-sensitive case management; conducting registration and documentation; and assisting with resettlement to third countries.

SO2: Provide well-coordinated comprehensive multi-sectoral lifesaving protection and humanitarian assistance to new arrivals and unregistered refugees and provide resilience-based support to host communities.

SO3: Identify persons at risk and in vulnerable situations and provide targeted assistance and specialized protection services.

SO4: Advocate for the continued provision of government protection, education and health services for refugees and provide the necessary support from a humanitarian and resilience perspective to strengthen national systems, as well as promote economic inclusion to ensure increasing levels of self-reliance.

SO5: Support the Government of Egypt in close coordination with embassies/consulates, to assist third country nationals (TCNs) with immigration procedures to enable their safe, dignified, and sustainable return to their countries of origin.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

The Protection Working Group will continue to advocate for fair and efficient asylum procedures in line with principles of international refugee law, as well as for access to territory and non-refoulement, particularly for people arrested for irregular entry into the country. A new self-onboarding registration online tool will be used in 2024 to enable UNHCR to register the refugee population faster by allowing all refugees to request registration appointments online.

RRP partners will strengthen the provision of legal assistance to Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers, including by raising awareness on their rights and obligations in the country, and on procedures to obtain civil documentation and birth registration. Capacity-building will focus on supporting national protection mechanisms by providing training, technical expertise and legal advice to national authorities on international protection. In 2023, overall registration capacity increased by 580 per cent compared to pre-crisis. Refugee status determination for Sudanese nationals, including those based on referral for

accelerated assessment due to vulnerabilities will continue.

In 2024, given the consistent increase in the registered population and existing resource challenges, the protection working group will continue to strengthen intersectoral coordination to ensure protection mainstreaming and contribute to consistent and harmonized prioritization criteria. This will be critical to maximize case management efficiency, to effectively package an inter-sector response and to ensure joint advocacy regarding both the protection environment and an effective inclusion strategy, especially for those with specific needs including children, older people and those with disabilities. The consolidation of the inter-agency protection and humanitarian response will focus on community-based solutions for asylum-seekers and refugees, through their respective leadership including refugee-led organizations and with due attention given to the participation and representation of women, children/youth, older people and others of diverse backgrounds and capacities.

In 2023 over 80,000 Sudanese new arrivals in Egypt who did not wish to seek international protection approached IOM to apply for socio-economic, housing, medical, education and/or legal assistance. IOM expanded its services throughout 2023, by opening an online sign-up form for new arrivals to request assistance, as well as doubling the number of staff to expedite the process. RRP partners will continue assisting unregistered refugees in 2024.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

The Child Protection Sub-Working Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNHCR, will support measures to ensure that the national child protection system is inclusive, encompassing every child, including refugee and asylum-seeking children on an equal footing with Egyptians. Alternative care arrangements for children, including UASC, will be strengthened especially for those entering Egypt irregularly to seek international protection, in close coordination with UNICEF, IOM and relevant national counterparts. Child protection actors will provide the necessary complementary services, including Best Interests Procedure for children, until children have full, safe, and quality access to national protection services. Considering the influx of new arrivals from Sudan, child protection actors will regularly update the child service mapping in Aswan which was conducted in 2023 to improve the mitigation and response mechanisms. Coordination at the country level will be further strengthened through the Child Protection sub-working group to ensure a coherent response from child protection actors and agreed upon priorities. Child Protection Sub-Working Group members will continue providing non-specialized and specialized prevention and response services for children at risk, including survivors of violence at the community and national levels through governmental and non-governmental child protection platforms. This includes MHPSS, among others through family clubs and child-friendly spaces established in and around Aswan, as well as unified and inclusive BIP. In addition, efforts to raise awareness on existing services, identify cases of children in need of protection services and to make referrals to the relevant service providers, will continue. Furthermore, in order to maximise protection outcomes for children, coordination efforts with education and livelihood will be strengthened, especially for children who are approaching 18 years of age and transitioning into adulthood.

Sub-sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV)

The GBV Sub-Working Group, co-chaired by UNFPA and UNHCR, will further strengthen the prevention, risk mitigation, and response activities particularly quality and timely access to survivor-centred services for GBV survivors, including victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, and trafficking for sexual exploitation. Safe and confidential GBV multisectoral services and referral pathways include emergency shelter, psychosocial support, legal assistance, emergency cash assistance and medical support, among others. GBV specialized services also comprises access to counselling and medical services for survivors of traditional harmful practices including female genital mutilation. Increased efforts will be dedicated to further localizing the response through women-led and refugee-led organizations, by providing technical support, and including them in the coordination mechanism, while jointly advocating for the inclusion of refugee and asylum-seeking survivors in national protection services.

Additionally, the GBV Sub-Working Group will ensure standardization and harmonization of GBV case management tools to actors that are actively engaged in the response. GBV mainstreaming will be reinforced through technical support to other sectors' GBV risk mitigation efforts including tailored training to frontline

responders and community members on handling GBV disclosures safely and ethically. Prevention activities focusing on women and girls' social and economic empowerment, supporting community-based prevention mechanisms, and engaging men and boys will be undertaken. The GBV Sub-sector leads and other RRP partners will reinforce their presence in neighbourhoods where refugees live and where a higher incidence of GBV is detected. To reduce the exposure to further violence, livelihood opportunities for women at risk of GBV and GBV survivors will be provided.

GBV partners will enhance the coordination with the other working groups, particularly Child Protection, Health and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Collaboration and capacity-building with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the National Council for Women, the Ministry of Health and Population, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity will be particularly strengthened. The provision of psychosocial support and stress-reduction programs for frontline workers will also be prioritized. Particular attention will be given to promoting a protective environment for girls in community schools, through prevention and awareness-raising activities oriented at pupils and teaching personnel.

Sub-sector: Community-based Protection (CBP)

The CBP Sub-sector, co-chaired by UNHCR and Terre Des Hommes, will support refugee and asylum-seeker community structures and refugee-led organizations by providing capacity and material support to strengthen their self-management and meaningful participation, particularly to identify and lead community solutions and promote social cohesion between refugee and host communities. Through CBP networks, two-way communication and accountability to refugees will be improved, by supporting effective information to refugees to raise awareness on their rights, availability and access to assistance and services, as well as by investing in feedback and response mechanisms to inform and adjust programmes and interventions. This will be achieved through enhanced refugee outreach modalities, community centres and outreach information sessions for new arrivals.

Education

The Education Working Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNHCR, will support refugee children to access quality formal and non-formal education, by providing education cash grants to support families' enrolment and tuition fees for school-going children as well as enhance the quality of education and learning for students in all types of schools, while advocating for the effective inclusion of refugee and asylum-seekers in public education programmes regardless of nationality. Additional vulnerability grants will also be provided to the most vulnerable families to alleviate their socio-economic difficulties. About, 50,000 education grants have been provided to 50,000 refugees and asylum-seeker students in public, community, and private schools in 2023. Children with disabilities will be financially supported to enrol in specialized schools that are suitable for their needs. RRP partners will implement activities with school children that include individual learning materials, as well as bridging, remedial and language classes, MHPSS and catch-up classes. These activities prepare students for their formal exams and help mitigate an identified learning loss that was exacerbated forced displacement. Additionally, learning and extra-curricular activities will be provided for children in both formal and non-formal settings to support refugee children's integration and encourage social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and their host communities. The education working group has established a task force that meets regularly to work on GBV risk mitigation in community schools. Moreover, technical support, refurbishment of WASH facilities and well-equipped classrooms will be provided to strengthen the capacity of the public education system to absorb the added number of refugee boys and girls and improve the protection space. Teachers and enrolment and certification staff of public and community schools hosting Sudanese refugee children will be trained to better provide necessary education support.

Food Security

The Food Security Working Group, chaired by WFP, will respond to the emergency and longer-term food and nutrition needs of Sudanese displaced people arriving in Egypt from Sudan, through a humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach, RRP partners will respond to immediate needs and in coordination with the

Livelihood/Economic Inclusion Sector will provide opportunities for livelihood activities to improve self-reliance and integration over the long term. RRP partners will respond to immediate needs and provide opportunities for livelihood activities to improve self-reliance and integration over the long term. Food Security partners will facilitate access to essential food needs to crisis affected populations through, in-kind rations and cash-based transfers. In-kind rations are provided to crisis affected Sudanese populations on their arrival in country, while monthly cash-based transfers allow refugees and newly arrived Sudanese to meet their basic needs in urban settings over prolonged time periods. In addition, RRP partners will collaborate with the Government of Egypt, and academic and private sector institutions to identify and advocate for sustainable solutions for refugee communities in Egypt to access their basic needs and reach food security levels. The activated logistical corridor in Aswan will remain operational for cross border delivery of assistance between Egypt and Sudan for UN and other development/aid entities. Sector partners will conduct vulnerability assessments in 2024 to update the refugee targeting strategy and support transitional programming.

Public Health & Nutrition

HEALTH

The Health Working Group, co-chaired by WHO and UNHCR, will provide medical services in complementarity with services offered by the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP). Public health infrastructure will be strengthened through procurement and installation of essential medical equipment such as syringe pumps, ultrasound and ECG machines, x-ray machines and others; provision of consumables, medication, and vaccines, as well as through staff training and establishing/updating of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines. Special attention will be given to mental health, reproductive health care and clinical management of rape services especially to survivors of GBV by setting up a referral mechanism in coordination with the GBV Sub-sector. Inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers into the national response plan, such as the universal health insurance scheme will be accelerated through advocacy efforts. Information sharing and community engagement will be strengthened to ensure that forcibly displaced people are aware of the available services so that misinformation is minimized. Provision of assistance will consider the needs of people with disabilities. Partners will improve health assistance at the southern border areas especially in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Population and the Egyptian Red Crescent, by providing in-kind support, staff training and capacity-building on disease surveillance, stock management and referral mechanisms. Health services include preventative services such as vaccination and communicable disease control, treatment for non-communicable disorders, mental health services, acute medical services including to GBV survivors, as well as referrals to secondary and tertiary care, including emergency obstetric care. As the sole provider for PEP kits in Egypt, UNFPA's role includes provision of treatment, capacitating medical service providers and ensuring adequate response to the needs by UN entities, NGOs, INGOs and national partners.

NUTRITION

The Nutrition Working Group, chaired by UNICEF, will continue to support the Government to ensure that Sudanese displaced families receive nutrition support, mainly for children under five years and pregnant or nursing women. This includes building the capacity of health workers for early detection, screening and responding to all forms of malnutrition, wasting, and anaemia cases among children under five and pregnant and lactating women, in areas with high concentrations of refugee populations, whether in the primary health care units or in civil society organization-affiliated spaces in Aswan, Cairo, Giza, and Alexandria governorates. Partners will work with academia to develop national wasting management guidelines. Other activities include technical support and provision of equipment and supplies such as ready-to-use therapeutic food and micronutrient supplementation. UNICEF, the Government, and partners will provide infant and young child counselling to improve their diets. The Ministry of Health and Population will also play a key role in community mobilization, awareness-raising and transforming harmful social norms to address the root causes of inadequate diet. Nutrition sector continues to support the Ministry of Health in improving the District Health Information System platform, registering Sudanese children and mothers who benefit from nutrition services in the primary health care facilities.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion (LEI)

The LEI Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP, aims to meet the goals of market-based economic empowerment of refugees and vulnerable host communities. Partners will put more efforts towards building the resilience of the refugee and vulnerable host community families against economic shocks and stresses as well as fostering social cohesion between refugees and host communities. Investment will also be made towards developing local capacity to respond to the refugee influx through an integrated socio-economic inclusion strategy in close collaboration with sectors like Food Security and Protection. Partners will also work with refugees and host communities, following a community participatory approach aimed at creating long-term sustainable income generation opportunities.

The LEI sector will operationalize the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by developing medium and long-term perspectives and priorities that will be informed by the sector partners for the 2024 LEI Working Group. This approach will require interventions in coordination with national authorities, institutions, civil society, and the private sector to improve refugees' socio-economic inclusion and access to the labour market, including self-employment and entrepreneurship. Partnering with relevant entities will promote crucial interventions that can benefit from refugee and host community human potential and capacities. Women, people with disabilities, youth, and other vulnerable groups will receive tailored programmes. These approaches will reduce refugee and host community socio-economic vulnerability and financial burden. Livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion measures will also help national and local governments and institutions to implement social cohesion activities. Partnering with national and local authorities to plan and provide resources and services – in line with the local and national development plans – will continue as a key priority.

These will help national and local authorities address the refugee influx which will be coordinated with central and local governments to increase national ownership and engage civil society and the private sector in attaining economic and social development. Partners will also conduct socio-economic profiling, stakeholder mapping, evaluating market access gaps, assessment of refugees' economic contribution, needs/vulnerabilities assessments to inform programming, advocacy efforts and partnerships, providing refugees/vulnerable host communities with information, self-employment support, job counselling to be able to access services and market opportunities. Developing socio-economic inclusion partnerships and interventions with the public and private sectors, civil society, international organizations, academia, and refugees will also remain a paramount in the implementation of LEI programs. The interventions will include supporting the development of waste management infrastructure in local communities with high refugee concentration, including waste collection equipment and systems and recycling centres, where investment in infrastructure can create jobs and stimulate economic growth while improving waste management and promoting social cohesion.

Settlement & Shelter/Housing

The shelter initiative will aim to improve the housing conditions of Sudanese refugees living in Egypt and social cohesion with host communities. Interventions will use a hybrid shelter rehabilitation modality to meet refugees' shelter needs while also investing in local communities by boosting the use of local labour, goods, materials and services, thereby contributing to the strengthening of community cohesion in targeted areas. The hybrid modality combines the upgrading of sub-standard shelters that will target shelter-vulnerable households living in inadequate but structurally safe shelters. For each shelter, a cash grant will be provided to the residing households, to upgrade the shelter to agreed minimum standards of adequacy. The shelter activities also include providing information and assistance on Legal and Civil Documentation (LCD), Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights and tenancy arrangements through participatory sessions to raise awareness. Supporting targeted households to obtain essential documents should contribute to increasing access to essential services. The proposed intervention addresses Goals 8 and 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to help alleviate their immediate constraints and better absorb and adapt to shocks, while fostering positive host community-refugee relations.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The WASH Working Group, chaired by UNICEF, will put more effort into improving Sudanese refugees' access to safe WASH facilities to protect refugees from waterborne diseases and promote their overall health and well-being. Preparedness activities will include identification and assessment of potential transit locations/points of entry, pre-positioning WASH supplies and equipment and hygiene items, and training of staff on WASH preparedness and response procedures. The WASH response will support water supply through the construction of additional water storage and distribution points, rehabilitate water points to have a sustainable and constant source of water with rational use. Partners will also support sanitation interventions through the construction and rehabilitation of gender-segregated emergency and permanent latrines and bathing shelters, as well as the set-up of emergency septic tanks and improve faecal sludge management. WASH partners will also focus on maintaining latrines and bathing shelters. Communication and hygiene promotion campaigns will be conducted to raise awareness among refugees about the importance of handwashing, and proper sanitation practices. Refugees will receive hygiene kits, soap and menstrual management kits for women and girls of menstruating age. Moreover, to maintain a clean and healthy environment partners will support waste management systems to effectively collect and dispose of waste, reducing environmental contamination and minimizing the risk of disease transmission.

Basic Needs

The BN/Cash Based Interventions Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and WFP, will enhance operational coordination on cash transfers and follow a common rationale approach. This includes avoidance of duplication, harmonization of tools and transfer modalities, reporting and monitoring among humanitarian actors, and coordinating complementary programs by different organizations and cash actors to ensure a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response. In 2024, sector partners will put more efforts to improve the work of the two established task forces which were created in 2023 to work on developing common indicators and a joint Post Distribution Monitoring tool, as well as to measure the survival minimum expenditure basket. CBI partners will continue providing multi-purpose cash assistance to address the basic needs of vulnerable refugees. To complement this effort, WFP will provide cash assistance to sustain food security as outlined in the food security sector. Together, both transfer values cover approximately 60 per cent of the survival minimum expenditure basket. A joint targeting hub between UNHCR and WFP was established in Egypt in early 2023. This hub will review and update the targeting methodology, ensuring accurate prioritization of vulnerabilities and that available resources are dedicated to those who need it the most, also based on consultations with and feedback from communities. Presently, an automated mathematical algorithm is employed to assess eligibility, considering various factors, including age, family size, disability status, educational background, and employment status, among others. As a response to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, Egypt's Basic Needs sector will provide one-time emergency cash assistance to the vulnerable newly arrived Sudanese refugees to address their most urgent needs.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
  - Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion
  - Sub-Section: Youth
  - Sub- Section: Older People
- Accountability to Affected People (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Climate Action
- Cash Assistance

Read more in the Regional Overview pp. 16-17

Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus

The influx of refugees in Egypt is putting pressure on existing national services, social services infrastructure, and economic systems. In some cases, it is also leading to inter- and intra-community tensions. To mitigate those impacts, cooperation among humanitarian, development and peace actors is crucial. Humanitarian organizations will address basic needs and humanitarian priorities both short and long-term. They will work in coordination and complementarity with development and peace actors in the RRP and beyond relevant to their respective operational areas. Linkages with Egypt's development priorities and plans will be established, to mitigate the effects of the current economic crisis on refugees and vulnerable host communities to be included in local systems and services.

Development actors, including financial institutions, as well as the private sector will be encouraged to engage for medium to long-term sustainability related to the economic challenges Egypt is facing, to achieve the SDGs, strengthen national systems, and ensure nobody is left behind.

Investments in national and local infrastructure, increasing quality of services, economic empowerment and reinforcing social protection schemes will represent the main areas of work for development stakeholders. Involvement of grassroots organizations, communities, representatives of youth and women's groups as well as networks and institutions that promote social cohesion will be key in ensuring that the work of humanitarian and development partners can have the maximum positive impact and foster inclusion and growth.

Partnership and Coordination

In support of the Government of Egypt, UNHCR and UNDP will co-lead and coordinate the humanitarian and resilience-based development RRP for Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers. The current coordination structure in Egypt will slightly evolve with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs leadership and the inclusion of UNDP in the co-leadership role.

The monthly Inter- Agency Working Group (Sudan Situation Update), chaired by the UNHCR Representative is the main body at the strategic level, which involves Heads of UN agencies, national and international organizations, and donors. This forum oversees the Inter-Sector Working Group, provides strategic guidance at the technical level, develops common advocacy, etc. The Inter-Sector Working Group, chaired by UNHCR, involves sector and Sub-sector working group leads and co-leads. It aims to ensure coordination and between different sectors, to ensure coherence, avoid duplication, coordinate the appeal process including the monitoring and evaluation exercise as well as reporting.

The sector and sub-sector working groups, chaired by UN agencies, involve UN agencies, national and international organizations, and refugee-led organizations. They contribute to the RRP by analysing the gaps, need and responses, establishing monitoring framework standards and indicators. The groups meet monthly. UNDP and UNHCR signed an MOU to set up and co-lead an inclusive Resilience Technical Working Group (RTWG) to enhance and mainstream resilience through the Inter-Sector and sector Working Group.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

27 Partners involved	UN Agencies 12	International NGOs 6	National NGOs 8
	$158,926,002	$11,264,255	$7,993,321
	IFRC & RC 1	FBOs 2	RLOs 1
	$4,958,498	$2,219,083	$51,025

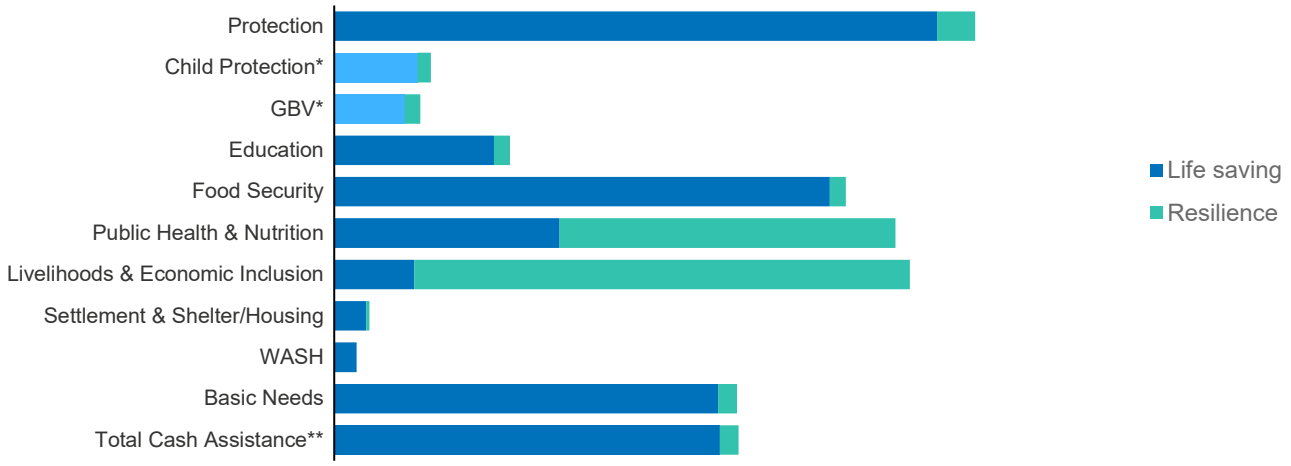
Note: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP. Many other national and local actors, including grassroots organizations collaborate with RRP partners to carry out RRP activities.

Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	***Life Saving***	***Resilience/Systems Strengthening***	***Total in USD***
Protection	$37,698,580	$2,425,466	$40,124,046
➢ *Of which Child Protection*	$5,251,362	$856,341	$6,107,703
➢ *Of which GBV*	$4,449,967	$996,150	$5,446,117
Education	$9,722,655	$1,187,791	$10,910,446
Food Security	$31,156,093	$974,297	$32,130,390
Basic Needs	$24,104,414	$1,210,000	$25,314,414
Public Health and Nutrition	$14,126,729	$21,082,158	$35,208,887
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	$4,633,577	$31,179,316	$35,812,893
WASH	$1,410,000	-	$1,410,000
Settlement and Shelter/Housing	$2,000,000	$231,000	$2,231,000
Total	***$124,852,048***	**$58,290,028**	**$183,142,076**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget*

*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in USD
National NGO			**7,993,321**
BALQEES	BALQEES	NNGO/RLO	51,025
CARE EGYPT FOUNDATION	CEF	NNGO	807,506
EGYPTIAN FOUNDATION FOR REFUGEE RIGHTS	EFR	NNGO	100,000
GEZOUR FOUNDATION	Gezour	NNGO	37,440
LIFE MAKERS FOUNDATION (EGYPT)	LMF	NNGO	5,865,793
MAIS	MAIS	NNGO	259,500
SAYRIA AL GAD	SAYRIA AL GAD	NNGO	21,990
YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY INSTITUTE ETIJAH	Etijah	NNGO	850,067
International NGO			**11,264,255**
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES	CRS	INGO/FBO	1,030,586
DON BOSCO	Don Bosco	INGO/FBO	1,188,497
HUMANITY & INCLUSION	HI	INGO	1,140,000
PLAN INTERNATIONAL	PLAN INTERNATIONAL	INGO	746,447
SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL	SCI	INGO	6,498,725
TERRE DES HOMMES INTERNATIONAL	TDH	INGO	660,000

IFRC & RC			**4,958,498**
EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT	ERC	RC	4,958,498
United Nations			**158,926,002**
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION	ILO	UN	2,614,600
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION	IOM	UN	14,500,000
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	UNDP	UN	25,000,000
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION	UNESCO	UN	499,500
UN WOMEN	UN WOMEN	UN	727,500
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES	UNHCR	UN	57,746,792*
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME	UN HABITAT	UN	1,175,000
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND	UNICEF	UN	4,945,221
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND	UNFPA	UN	4,510,000
UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM ON HIV/AIDS	UNAIDS	UN	77,000
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	WFP	UN	32,130,390
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	WHO	UN	15,000,000
Total USD			**183,142,076**

**There was an error in UNHCR's budget in the original document which has been corrected with the inclusion of an additional USD 3M in requirements for Protection activities.*

Ethiopia
Country chapter

At the Metema border, this woman and her extended family of 14 were living in a makeshift shelter. They were relocated along with other refugees from the border to the transit site and then to the new Kumer site, where they have access to better shelters and other services. As of 2023, nearly 10,000 people had been relocated to Kumer.

©UNHCR/ Elema Fulem

AT A GLANCE

Ethiopia Planned Response

January-December 2024

139 K[38]
Refugees

29 K[39]
Returnees

5 K
Third Country Nationals

57 K
Host Community

USD 175.8 M
Total Financial requirements

25
RRP Partners

[38] *The response for refugees from Sudan is also included in the Country RRP for Ethiopia, which reflects the inter-agency response for all refugees in Ethiopia.*

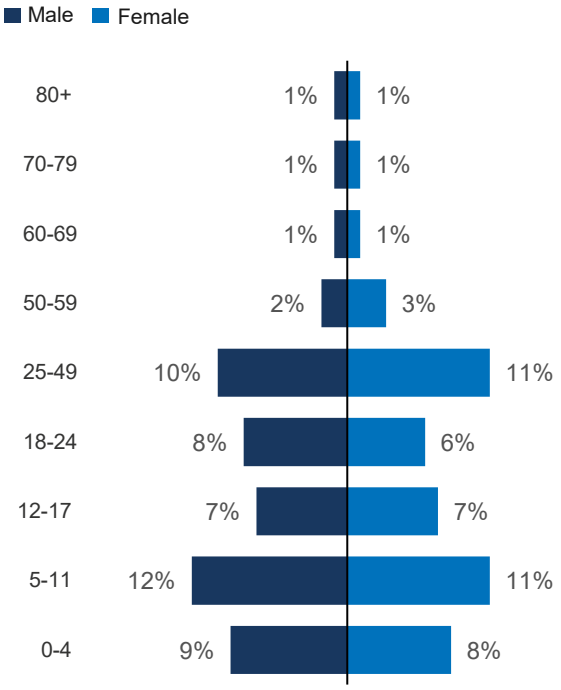
[39] *There are18,000 Ethiopian migrant returnees and 5,000 third country nationals in Ethiopia who are not budgeted in this plan, they are reflected in the IOM Response Overview to the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries.*

Population Planning Figures

Country	Sudanese refugees pre-15 April 2023	New Arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Refugee Population	48,964	37,195	139,420
Refugee Returnees		4,300	29,000
Third Country Nationals		16,383	5,000*
Host Community			55,644
Total projected population in need			**224,064**

*Note: *5,000 third country nationals in Ethiopia are not budgeted in this plan, they are reflected in the IOM Response Overview to the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries.*

Age and gender breakdown



16%
People with disabilities

49%
Women and girls

51%
Men and boys

54%
Children

MID-YEAR UPDATE

Highlights

With ongoing hostilities in the Amhara region, the security in and around the refugee settlements remains deeply challenging. There have been increased reports of crime, theft, armed robbery, shooting, and alleged abductions in Awlala and Kumer refugee settlements. On 1 May 2024, some 1,000 refugees left the Awlala settlement in protest over security incidents and insufficient services. The Ethiopian government has provided additional security, including deploying federal police and increasing patrols around the settlements. However, despite these efforts, the situation remains difficult. RRP partners, the government's Refugee and Returnees Service (RRS), local authorities, and refugee representatives are continuing discussions to find a suitable solution. A new site has been identified in the Amhara region for the relocation of refugees from both existing settlements. In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, the Government of Ethiopia allocated 350 hectares of land to relocate refugees from the Kurmuk transit centre to the new settlement of Ura. The construction of 841 shelters and 32 communal latrines was completed in the new settlement to accommodate the first relocation of some 2,500 refugees before the end of June 2024.

From January to June 2024, Ethiopia received 8,451 refugees from Sudan including 7,895 Sudanese, 445 non-Sudanese (mainly Eritreans and South Sudanese), and 5,885 Ethiopian refugee returnees, putting the total new arrivals since the outbreak of the conflict at 55,831 individuals. In the context of the Sudan situation, Ethiopia is currently responding to some 106,600 individuals including the pre-existing Sudanese population hosted in Sherkole, Tsore, and Bambasi camps in Benishangul-Gumuz region.

Consequences of underfunding

As of June, the response in Ethiopia is just 16 per cent funded.

Lack of funding in the response has impacted food, health, protection, shelter and education needs—all of which are essential basic needs for refugees.

- The food basket provided to refugees could only meet 60 per cent of the recommended dietary needs, leading to severe food insecurity among refugees and exacerbating negative coping strategies to meet the nutritional needs of families.
- Some 136 referrals to tertiary health facilities in Addis Ababa could not be conducted preventing the affected refugees from accessing necessary health services.
- About 385 refugees with mental illnesses were not able to continue their treatment due to the suspension of mental health and psychosocial support activities in the Benishangul Gumuz camps.
- The absence of safe houses in the Kumer and Awlala settlements is leaving GBV survivors without a physical protection mechanism. The lack of streetlights is also increasing protection risks, especially for women and girls.
- In the transit centres and settlements hosting new arrivals, an average of 94 individuals are sharing a latrine (standard < 50), resulting in widespread open defecation and further exposing women and girls to protection risks.
- Inadequate education facilities coupled with security concerns meant that only 1,362 refugee children (an estimated 14 percent) are enrolled in formal and informal primary schools in the host community. Some 5,000 students at the secondary school level have no access to education. Existing facilities are unable to cope and this could impact peaceful co-existence between refugees and their hosts, if the capacity of the existing schools is not increased.

Priority needs

Funding for 5,334 upgraded emergency shelters, 218 family-shared latrines, boreholes, as well as 60 classrooms is urgently needed for the new Ura settlement (Benishangul-Gumuz region) to be able to receive 22,000 refugees currently living in communal shelters in Kurmuk transit centre.

Following joint assessments and feasibility studies, a new settlement site has been identified for the relocation of refugees currently in the Awlala and Kumer settlements. Additional resources are urgently required for the site development of this new settlement in the Amhara region.

Funding is required to maintain the quality of services provided, especially for protection. Staffing cuts are imminent; for example, 17 child protection project staff will be discontinued as of 30 June, negatively impacting the identification of children-at-risk, case management, and non-specialized psychosocial services in the transit centre and camps in Benishangul-Gumuz region.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

As of December 2023, more than 41,000 individuals have crossed the border from Sudan to Ethiopia in search of international protection. According to the joint UNHCR-IOM screening and verification exercise, a total of 91,500 people entered Ethiopia from Sudan since the conflict began on 15 April 2023, including Ethiopian migrants, third country nationals, Ethiopian returnees, as well as refugees from Sudan, South Sudan, and Eritrea. New arrivals continue to be registered through three border points in the Amhara region (Metema border), Benishangul-Gumuz Region (Kurmuk border), and Gambella Region (Pagak border). The recent expansion of the conflict in the Eastern States of Sudan has caused a new increase in the movements towards Ethiopia. Close to 20,000 refugees are currently hosted in the Kumer settlement and transit centre in the Metema area of the Amhara region. The Kumer settlement has reached its maximum capacity, and the Government of Ethiopia has allocated land for a new site to be established to accommodate all those in need. In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, close to 18,000 refugees are hosted in the Kurmuk area, located near the Sudanese border.

As resources are limited, there are significant gaps in the provision of services to new arrivals, especially in health, WASH, and shelter. A pause in food assistance for all population groups in Ethiopia, including refugees, from June 2023 to October 2023 had a significant impact on refugees in the country, including new arrivals from Sudan who reported increased levels of malnutrition. Resources allocated for the emergency response, such as the construction of latrines and other essential WASH facilities, provision of medicine and other services, had to be reallocated to provide daily hot meals for the new arriving refugees. This has also contributed to significant gaps in the response. Despite the peace agreement between the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which ended the two-year conflict in northern Ethiopia, the country continues to grapple with conflict and instability of its own, including in the parts hosting refugees from Sudan. In the Amhara region, the Government of Ethiopia declared a State of Emergency in August 2023 due to active fighting between the federal army and regional forces. Since then, mobile and broadband internet have been disrupted in most of the Amhara region which made communication difficult, in turn impacting the coordination of the humanitarian response, as well as challenging the provision of humanitarian supplies. In Benishangul-Gumuz, transportation of supplies continues to be impacted by security incidents occurring along the route from Addis Ababa to Assosa in the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

With the conflict in Sudan showing no signs of abating and with the recent flare-up in Al Jazira State, RRP partners expect more refugees, returnees and third country nationals to cross into Ethiopia in search of safety and international protection. It is projected that some 53,000 individuals in need of international protection will arrive by end 2024 adding the total population of individuals affected by the Sudan situation to 139,420 people, including 113,510 Sudanese (81 per cent) and 25,910 other nationalities (19 per cent). Moreover, it is projected that some 29,000 Ethiopian refugees, who have previously fled conflict in Ethiopia, may return to Ethiopia by end 2024. The needs of 118,000 Ethiopian migrant returnees and 35,000 third country nationals are not accounted for in this plan as these are reflected in the IOM Response Overview to the Sudan Crisis and Neighbouring Countries.

Country Risks and Needs

New arrivals from Sudan face a variety of protection risks, including family separation, gender-based violence (GBV), and sexual exploitation and abuse. There is an urgent need for prevention, mitigation, and response mechanisms and services. Signs of psychological distress among refugees and asylum-seekers have been observed and provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, including psychological first aid, are key. Protection services provided to newly arrived refugees and returnees include child protection and GBV response, family tracing and reunification, protection risk mitigation (including GBV risk mitigation, mainstreaming across all sectors), as well as strengthening complaints and feedback mechanisms and enhancing support to people with specific needs.

In 2023, GBV referral pathways were agreed upon and partners' frontline staff, incentive workers, and refugee stakeholders were trained on GBV core concepts, safe disclosure and referral and case management process in the Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz regions. Construction of two women and girls' safe spaces (meant for morale boosting activities, as well as GBV responses), were initiated in Kurmuk and Metema. However due to insufficient funds, there were limited number of rooms in the women and girls' safe spaces, and this requires strengthening to ensure more opportunities for engagement.

Locations under the Gambella Region were not accessible due to the security situation, hence the GBV response was very limited. Communication materials on GBV prevention and available GBV response services were distributed and displayed in the reception centres and transit sites. Other key activities include raising-awareness on protection services, establishing referral pathways and strengthening

community engagement and participation in the response. Capacity-building for border management agencies on protection as well as for regional administrations, and local woredas (districts) to support and facilitate community-based protection activities and peaceful coexistence among displaced refugees and host communities is also a priority. Current facilities and services are inadequate to respond to the needs of the new refugee population, and more is needed to improve the existing sites and establish new ones. This includes construction of shelters, WASH, health, and education facilities. For example, in the Metema transit centre and Kumer settlement in the Amhara region, hosting 20,000 refugees, WASH services fall significantly below the standard with only one latrine available per 100 people. Moreover, the daily water allowance per person is also below standard. Lack of adequate services, especially WASH, significantly increases the risk of disease. This has already been seen among refugees hosted in the Kumer settlement who faced an outbreak of cholera in August and September 2023.

The security situation in the Amhara region continues to impact the protection of refugees hosted in the Kumer settlement and the transit centre. Safety remains a key concern and the Government's Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS), together with UNHCR and additional partners, are working closely with regional and local authorities to reinforce security arrangements in and around the sites. While the security situation has remained calm in the Benishangul-Gumuz region, insecurity along key supply routes has disrupted the delivery of essential supplies for newly arriving refugees. Peace in Gambella remains fragile and unpredictable, as shown in the past, with an impact on the lives of refugees and the host community.

In 2023, in response to the Sudan situation, two education needs assessment exercises were carried out in Kumer in the Amhara region and in Kurmuk in the Benishangul-Gumuz region. Based on the outcome of the assessments, the proposed interventions included expansion of primary and secondary education facilities to accommodate refugee children in existing host community schools. The assessment also outlined the need for non-formal education and early learning in safe and protective learning environments for all refugee children within a few months of their initial displacement. The education response, implemented in collaboration with the regional and local government education authorities, will also provide teaching and learning materials, textbooks, and support to teachers' welfare, as well as language classes to support the refugee children learn the language of their host country. Latest registration figures show that 17,140 Sudanese refugee children and youth are of school age (4,114 in pre-primary, 9,084 in primary and 3,942 in secondary).

At the end of 2023, a total of 61,106 people from the population were of working age. Of these, 4.4 per cent received livelihoods assistance in the agriculture and small enterprise sectors and were self-employed. Four per cent received productive assets, training (including Technical and Vocational Education and Training TVET), and business support. Some 845 refugees had access to 237 hectares of arable land under irrigated crop production through cooperatives. Refugees also received assistance to engage and participate in the grinding mill business, petty trading as well as production of sanitary products and upcycling of recycled materials. However, refugees who were newly displaced by the recent conflict in Sudan did not receive livelihoods assistance due to the limited presence of a diverse group of development actors as well as budget limitations to support these activities.

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy

Role of the Government

Ethiopia remains one of the largest refugee-hosting countries on the African continent and globally, with close to one million refugees hosted on its territory. In 2019, Ethiopia adopted one of the most progressive refugee policies in Africa, which grants rights to refugees to access employment, primary education, national financial services in support of refugee inclusion, resilience and self-reliance. In addition to the 2019 Refugee Proclamation, the Government of Ethiopia has demonstrated its leadership in refugee protection by making impactful pledges at the 2016 Leader's Summit, the 2019 Global Refugee Forum and the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. The pledges demonstrate the strong and longstanding commitment by the Government of Ethiopia to advance refugee access to asylum, education, livelihoods, sustainable energy, digital infrastructure, and irrigable land for agriculture, amongst others. Despite facing political, social and macroeconomic challenges in recent years, including the impact of conflict and climate change, Ethiopia continues to maintain an open-door policy to refugees, including the new arrivals fleeing the conflict in Sudan. While the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) is the main government body responsible for refugee protection in Ethiopia, RRP partners work closely with other line ministries, including the Ministry of Water and Energy, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Skills and Labor, Federal TVET Agency, TVET Colleges, TVET Bureaus, Job Creation Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Ethiopian Electric Utility, as well as regional and local authorities in refugee-hosting locations to support refugee inclusion and integration in local services and systems, including health and education, strengthening of digital infrastructure in refugee-hosting areas, increasing livelihoods opportunities, and other areas in support of refugees and returnees in Ethiopia.

Inter-Agency Response

The strategy for the response to Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia under the RRP is aligned with the National 10-year Perspective Development Plan for Ethiopia, the Ethiopia Refugee Proclamation 2019, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), the Global Compact on Refugees, and the pledges made by the Government of Ethiopia at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 and 2023. The 2019 and 2023 pledges by the Government focus on creating employment opportunities for refugees and hosts; securing better access to education; strengthening protection and asylum systems; and enhancing access to renewal and clean energy for refugees and host communities. Moreover, the government is committed to include refugees in existing national systems; transform selected refugee camps into sustainable urban settlements; address environmental concerns and provide alternative sources of energy; improve the enabling environment for private sector engagement; provide access to irrigable land through lease agreements; and enhance digital infrastructure and e-services in refugee-hosting areas. Guided by the above, a 'solutions from the onset' approach is being pursued by RRP partners for the emergency response to new arrivals from Sudan in Ethiopia. UNHCR in collaboration with RRS and RRP partners, ensure a 'whole of society' approach, and continue to work closely with regional and local authorities to ensure that refugees can access existing services in the local community, and where needed, existing systems and services are further capacitated and enhanced for the benefit of both refugees and members of the host community. Support to authorities include maintaining access to territory and to ensure that registration and documentation is prioritised, including strengthening the provision of specialized protection services such as GBV mitigation and response, child protection systems and mechanisms. Efforts include engaging and enhancing community structures to be able to address/refer protection risks within their communities as well as improve the protection environment and mitigate risks. The selection of refugee-hosting sites is based on criteria which allows refugees to live near towns, villages, and markets, to enable trade and interaction with local communities, and increase access to livelihoods opportunities, local markets, and education and health services. Moreover, any investment made in the sites will benefit members of the host communities in addition to the refugee population. This will support in creating an enabling environment for peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host community, ensure greater sustainability of interventions, and contribute to the development and growth of refugee hosting areas.

Furthermore, interventions in 2024 will continue to focus on ensuring access to asylum, including reception of individuals in need of international protection at border points, screening, and providing necessary assistance and services, as well as the relocation of refugees into new and existing settlements and sites. All interventions will be designed, implemented, and monitored through rights-based, community-based and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approaches. Protection monitoring to assess the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers and inform evidence-based advocacy will continue, as well as consultation with diverse members of the refugee and hosting communities to make sure that their views, needs, and proposed solutions contribute to inform the response.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Individuals displaced by the conflict in Sudan, who need international protection can access territory, individual documentation, and fair and efficient asylum procedures in Ethiopia.

SO2: Provide timely and life-saving protection and humanitarian assistance for those fleeing Sudan, with a specific focus on identifying protection risks and supporting those at heightened risk and in need of specialized protection interventions and other services.

SO3: Strengthen resilience so that those fleeing Sudan are included in national systems and services, particularly in health, education and market systems, and are able to live in integrated settlements and have access to economic opportunities.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

Ethiopia hosts 52,595 individually registered Sudanese nationals and 41,689 individuals affected by the Sudan situation, which includes 67 per cent of Sudanese, 23 per cent from other nationalities and 10 per cent of Ethiopian refugee returnees who have been profiled at group level through different entry points as of 31 December 2023 and are awaiting individual biometric registration. Only 8 per cent of registered Sudanese aged 14 years and above hold a valid refugee ID while 92 per cent of registered individuals do not have a valid refugee ID, which poses protection risks including possible refoulement and lack of legal representation. In 2024, UNHCR and RRS will continue to provide valid documents (proof of registration and individual refugee ID cards) to refugees already hosted in the country (including Sudanese) and conduct biometric registration for all individuals who fled Sudan after 15 April 2023. This is in line with pledges made by the Government of Ethiopia to strengthen the legal framework for registration, individual documentation, refugee status determination and protection of refugees and asylum-seekers in Ethiopia including those affected by the Sudan situation.

In 2024, additional focus will be placed on enhancing community-based protection systems, including by strengthening feedback and response mechanisms and expanding work with community structures. This builds upon the work done in 2023, where RRP partners collaborated with communities to establish refugee leadership structures including women's associations, youth associations and a network of community volunteers to enhance a community-based approach. Protection desks have also been set up to ensure the provision of information on available services, facilitate two-way communication, receive feedback from affected individuals and communities and provide responses

In 2023, forcibly displaced people in Metema received psychological first aid to help cope with their emotional distress and trauma as a result of the direct exposure to conflict, violence, loss, and deprivation. A rapid MHPSS situational analysis was also conducted to identify MHPSS needs and inform future MHPSS programming. From the situational analysis, trauma, loss and grief, feelings of hopelessness, psychotic episodes, depression, and anxiety-like symptoms were identified as most common mental health concerns. Suicidal behaviour especially suicidal ideation and substance use were also raised as key concerns in the community. The children were reported to exhibiting fear, bed wetting, nightmares, and disturbed sleep. Furthermore, limited MHPSS services to persons with specific needs, unaccompanied and separated children and GBV survivors, limited community based MHPSS services and awareness sessions leading to stigma and discrimination and limited provision of psychotropic medication which leads to relapses of cases were listed as key MHPSS gaps. In 2024, a community based MHPSS approach towards supporting psychological wellbeing and resilience of forcibly displaced people and the host community will primarily be achieved through strengthening the capacity of communities, including through engaging community groups, to provide psychosocial support themselves. This includes a community-driven process to identify people in need of MHPSS interventions and provide multiple forms of support (non-specialized MHPSS services through community-based support and linkage to specialized MHPSS services with referrals as necessary) depending on individual needs, but with an emphasis on services that are embedded within the communities and the existing structures and services. Special attention will be given to activities to prevent suicidal behaviour and to support persons exhibiting suicidal behaviour including suicidal ideation, attempts and death by suicide together with their families.

The Government, through RRS and supported by UNHCR, partners, and Refugee Central Committees (RCC), will maintain an active presence at receiving sites and camps to ensure the civilian character of the sites, the prevention of, risk mitigation, and response to GBV, the protection of children, older people, and other persons with specific protection needs. Individuals at risk are referred to and provided with needed specialized protection services. Protection mainstreaming across sectors, ensuring humanitarian standards, protection monitoring, and community engagement will be enhanced across sites and camps. and protection considerations, including age, gender and diversity are mainstreamed in all sectors of the response so that all forcibly displaced people are better protected, their risks mitigated and can enjoy their rights.

RRP partners will work closely with the authorities to provide return and reintegration support for former Ethiopian refugees returning from Sudan by conducting a household level registration. Coordinating with and leveraging the collective expertise and resources of all partners, RRP partners will monitor, identify and address challenges faced by refugee returnees from Sudan en route and at their areas of return and will promote their successful reintegration.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

In 2024, RRP partners will continue to support and assist children affected by the conflict in Sudan. Best Interests Procedure have been initiated with the identification of children at risk, those who have experienced incidents related to child abuse, neglect, exploitation, violence, and separation, including separated and unaccompanied children at the entry points, reception centres, established settlements, and during biometric registration, relocation as well as through community services and structures. Child protection programmes will be guided by the Interagency Minimum Standards for Child Protection, and the Best Interests Procedures Guidelines. RRP partners will work with health care providers to ensure MHPSS services to children and caregivers, including setting up child-friendly spaces to allow children to engage in safe play and recreational activities to build their resilience and promote psychosocial well-being. Tracing and family reunification services will be provided in collaboration with ICRC. Family-based alternative care placement for unaccompanied children and assessment of care for separated children will be implemented through the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs in collaboration with protection partners. Training in Best Interests Procedures for partners, social workers and outreach workers is planned.

Strengthening of family unity and community engagement for behavioural change to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, abuse, harmful practices, and to mitigate other forms of risks of GBV against children will be essential cross-sectoral activities. Community engagement and building on existing protection systems such as child welfare committees and child rights clubs will be an integral part of the child protection response, which will focus on the prevention of family separation, identifying unaccompanied and separated children, family tracing and reunification and providing family-based alternative care options when family tracing is not possible.

As per strategic priorities within the operation, UNHCR and partners will work with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs at the national level and Bureau of Women and Children Affairs at regional level, (which has the statutory responsibility to provide case management for children and their families facing protection concerns) and ensure interventions related to system strengthening as well as inclusion of refugees into existing child protection systems. Child protection will be mainstreamed into other sectors, and sector staff will be trained on safe identification of children at risk and referral to specialized services. Child protection coordination mechanisms led by authorities will be strengthened to provide timely interventions for prevention and response for children. To strengthen peaceful coexistence, sports for protection programmes in collaboration with the host community will be implemented.

Sub-sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV)

In 2024, RRP partners will strengthen inter-agency coordination mechanisms, referral pathways and multisectoral responses to GBV (including working with other sectors on referrals to specialized legal, health and mental health services such as clinical management of rape, safety and security services (such as safe shelters) as well as legal aid services. Dignity kits will be provided to women and girls of reproductive age and emergency multi-purpose cash assistance for persons at risk (including GBV survivors) will be given, to mitigate the risk for women and girls of exposure to sexual exploitation or resorting to harmful coping mechanisms (such as sale or exchange of sex, early and forced marriage) to meet their basic needs and those of their families. Established women and girls' safe spaces will be improved and equipped to provide quality information and activities that promote healing, well-being and empowerment. GBV awareness-raising and existing community structures will be strengthened through primary prevention approaches such as SASA! Together[40], and Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) which are both community engagement strategies. Capacity development for frontline responders and government stakeholders will be reinforced through targeted trainings, including how to safely handle disclosures of GBV incidents and referrals. GBV referral pathways will be updated. Collaboration on GBV risk assessments and safety audits to identify risk factors and gaps in services resource and capacity will be regularly carried out as well as risk mitigation measures across different sectors. Capacity-development and awareness-raising will include Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and sexual harassment with a zero-tolerance approach for both partners and communities.

[40] SASA! Together is an innovative community mobilization approach which aims to prevent violence against women and children, promote gender equality, and strengthen community responses to such issues. SASA!, which stands for Start, Awareness, Support, Action, encourages communities to take part in activities and discussions that challenge social norms contributing to gender violence and inequality.

Education

In 2024, RRP partners will work closely with national and regional authorities to include refugees in national systems and services for education. The Sudan situation education response in Kumer/Awlala and Kurmuk, will build on the ongoing education activities in the two locations. Around 10,000 refugee children and youth will be targeted for the immediate education response. Two funding opportunities from Education Cannot Wait and EU-INTPA will support the education response, catering for the needs of students. Activities planned include rehabilitation and construction of extra classrooms in the existing host community schools, teachers' support and training in MHPSS, GBV, child protection, curriculum content and pedagogy and providing curriculum materials and scholastic materials. Language classes for refugees will continue until proficiency is attained in the host country language of instruction. Collaboration with regional and local education authorities will be enhanced to strengthen the capacity and resilience of the education system. An international organisation has been selected to implement education response activities in both Kumer/Awlala and Kurmuk in line with the refugee inclusion integration approach working and in close collaboration with the education authorities. Collaboration with Education partners in the provision of supplementary education materials such as high-quality education tents and early childhood development kits and materials will be explored and strengthened.

Food Security

Newly arrived refugees will receive food assistance aligning with the agreed caloric value based on WFP's resource allocation and projections for 2024, likely to go below the current 60 per cent of the recommended dietary allowance. UNHCR, WFP and RRS have developed frameworks to guide general food assistance in refugee settings, with greater focus on protection monitoring, registration and coordination. Refugees will receive food assistance aligning with the agreed caloric value based on WFP's resources. RRP partners will explore targeting of food assistance based on agreed protection-sensitive vulnerability criteria developed after consultation with communities, continue to work to strengthen systems and feedback and response mechanisms around food distribution, distribute emergency food rations in line with the food basket ration scale, and ensure protection monitoring of general food distribution.

Public Health & Nutrition

RRP partners will continue to prioritize comprehensive primary health care services, including sexual and reproductive health services, access to vaccinations, clinical management of rape for survivors of GBV, and management of non-communicable diseases through supporting existing national health systems at the primary health care level to the extent possible, while facilitating refugees to access these services. A community-based health and nutrition surveillance system will be strengthened, and emergency preparedness and response plans will be coordinated with the local and national health authorities. New arrivals will continue to receive essential health services at border points, transit centres and in settlements/sites. Medical referrals to higher-level government health facilities will be facilitated, including provision of ambulances. The response will ensure availability of medicines and medical supplies and essential diagnostics at primary health care facilities accessed by refugees. Data management systems will be aligned with the Ministry of Health, while ensuring access for the refugee health information system. Malnutrition preventive and management actions will be implemented prioritizing children under five and pregnant and lactating women. This will include screening, community management of acute malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency and control, promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding programmes, among other nutrition-sensitive and specific programmes.

Livelihood & Economic Inclusion (LEI)

Partners will provide support for the implementation of the Refugee Proclamation, the 2019 and 2023, the Global Refugee Forum pledges made by the government that focus on resilience and self- reliance. In 2024, strategic partnerships with World Bank-financed projects will be leveraged to support the short- and longer-term Sudan response. These will include the Urban Jobs Safety Net project (RHISN) for public works and Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) Phase II for access to basic services. Other strategic partners will include INKOMOKO for enterprise development and GIZ, who will implement agricultural economic inclusion projects and the creation of jobs in collaboration with key government actors such as the Bureau of Agriculture, TVET and the Job Creation Agency. There will also be a focus on expanding agriculture crop

production agriculture through advocacy for land and investments in agricultural inputs.

Settlement & Shelter/Housing

Recent commitments by the Government of Ethiopia at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum focus on climate action, human settlement, and inclusion of refugees into existing national systems. In 2023, RRP partners set up two main transit centres (Metema and Kurmuk) hosting over 18,000 people through building more than 52 communal shelters with consideration given to gender and accessibility aspects. Also, multi-functional teams composed of government authorities, RRS, UN agencies and partners conducted assessments for potential sites in Amhara (Kumer, Awelala which has capacity for 12,000 individuals and master layouts were developed) and Benishangul-Gumuz (Ura site will host around 20,000, site plans are being drafted) for the establishment of settlements to integrate services to support refugees and host communities. Kumer settlement is already being developed hosting over 9,000 people in different kind of shelters (1,690 family tents and 20 partitioned communal shelters). With Awelala settlement, which can host 5,000 refugees/asylum-seekers, the operation has planned to provide immediate emergency shelters composed of 18 communal shelters and 450 family tents at household plots, and gradually shall transition to 1,450 dignified houses which can be transformed by participation of the communities.

A new location has been jointly identified in Ura Woreda, and social services are close to the location. RRP partners are working to start to develop the site which can accommodate 20,000 new arrivals, currently living at the transit centre. In Gambella, the capacities of existing refugee sites will be reinforced, with possibilities of further extensions, and feasibility assessments will be conducted to determine which new settlements are possible. The establishment of new sites will pursue a 'solutions from the onset' approach, in which services such as health, schools, water systems, and other facilities will be strengthened to support both host and refugee communities. New settlements will be established in areas that minimize the risks of flooding.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

In line with the recent commitments by the Government of Ethiopia at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum on WASH, RRP partners will continue to promote the inclusion of refugees in national systems and work closely with the regional government water authorities and RRS in coordinating the WASH response. Emergency immediate water provision will be done through water trucking (10 litres per person per day) until more sustainable approaches are possible. The Regional Water Bureau will be engaged to provide technical support and oversight in the development of durable water systems and support capacity-building. Resilience and sustainability will be key in WASH service provision. As such, solarization of diesel-powered water systems will be prioritized to reduce operational costs and negative impact on the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency and reducing climate change impacts. Integrated water service provision will be ensured to support and encourage peaceful coexistence between host communities and refugees. Gender-segregated, disability-accessible sanitation facilities will be constructed. Institutional WASH support will also be provided. Timely and consistent provision of soap will be ensured to promote personal hygiene through hand washing, especially in the fight against infectious diseases. Hygiene promotion will continue.

Basic Needs

Aligned with UNHCR's Global Policy on Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), 2022--2026 and Ethiopia's CBI strategy for 2022 to 2024, RRP partners aim to implement and expand CBI through a "why not cash" approach. This approach prioritizes CBI over in-kind assistance to effectively address sectoral and basic needs, emphasizing emergency cash assistance and multipurpose cash grants wherever feasible. This implementation modality is designed to contribute significantly to overall protection and solutions outcomes, enhancing programme delivery efficiency, effectiveness, and impact. Additionally, RRP partners will closely collaborate with its government partners, financial service providers, humanitarian actors specializing in cash assistance, and coordinate extensively with the cash working group to sustain multipurpose cash assistance at scale. Partners will actively engage with bilateral actors to strengthen national, shock-responsive social safety nets and gradually introduce sectoral cash support. The cash working group is committed to supporting and providing tools for the systematic de-duplication of cash assistance across humanitarian actors wherever feasible.

Logistics, Supply & Telecommunications

Under the Refugee Coordination Model, the Refugee Emergency Telecoms Sectors aims to orchestrate the seamless delivery of communications and technology services in areas facing refugee emergencies. Key to this initiative is the establishment of Security Operation Centres (SOC) that operate around the clock. The SOCs are pivotal in receiving real-time alerts, streamlining response strategies, and broadcasting essential information, acting as nerve centres in crises. The strategy underscores the importance of advanced communication tools. Every team member will be equipped with security communication devices, with an emphasis on satellite phones, recognizing the reality of compromised network infrastructure in many emergency areas. Another cornerstone of this plan is the deployment of VSAT systems across all newly earmarked locations. This ensures an autonomous connectivity channel, independent of local networks, safeguarding against interruptions. In remote locations, such as Gondar, Gende Wah and Tsore, without commercial telecom providers, providing connectivity to partners and humanitarian community is vital. It enables essential coordination and real-time information sharing in challenging environments, supports remote expert consultations, ensures timely delivery of aid, and maintains safety communications, all critical for effective emergency response in isolated areas.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
  - Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion
  - Sub-Section: Youth
  - Sub- Section: Older People
- Accountability to Affected People (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Climate Action
- Cash Assistance

Read more in the Regional Overview pp. 16 -17

Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus

The response to individuals in need of international protection arriving from Sudan to Ethiopia is guided by the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees and aims to promote solutions and inclusion from the outset of the refugee emergency. RRP partners will pursue a multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society approach by engaging with regional and local authorities, humanitarian, development and peace actors, civil society, the private sector, refugee-led organizations and committees, and members of the host community.

From the onset of the emergency, RRP partners engaged with regional and local authorities to coordinate the response, including to identify suitable land for settlement of the refugees, include refugees in local services and systems, and to explore opportunities for development of the refugee-hosting area, for the benefit of both the refugee population and the host community. This will enable refugees to become part of and contribute to their local host community from early on, pave the way for their socio-economic inclusion, minimize long-term dependency on humanitarian assistance, and allow for greater levels of self-reliance.

In 2024, RRP partners will further explore opportunities with development actors to support the establishment of services at the new sites in the Amhara and Benishangul-Gumuz Regions, including development of needs assessments; expansion of education, health water and sanitation services and vocational training; access to electricity; and capacity-building for local governments and municipalities.

Partnership and Coordination

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model and the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR supports the government to lead and coordinate the response. On behalf of the Government, RRS takes the lead in collaboration with UNHCR, partners, authorities at federal, regional, and local levels, and community-based organizations. There are 25 partners who are directly appealing for funds through this appeal, with more partners on the ground supporting the response. The 2024 RRP aims to ensure effective multisectoral response to affected people including refugees, refugee returnees and members of host community. Inter-Agency Task Forces are operating at technical level, co-chaired by UNHCR and RRS, in Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions where refugee and/or refugee returnee arrivals are received. The inter-agency task forces are complemented by sectoral working groups on protection and sub-groups on GBV and CP, WASH, public health and nutrition, shelter/settlements and housing, and education.

An Inter-Agency Refugee Coordination Group composed of UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs and other partners meet in Addis Ababa every second month to discuss coordination and alignment of activities and interventions in support of refugees in Ethiopia. Moreover, quarterly meetings, chaired by the Director General of RRS and the UNHCR Representative, are held with a group of donors in Addis Ababa to brief on the refugee response in the country and the current gaps and needs of the refugee population.

At the field level, coordination structures ensure that progress and challenges are shared, and partners effectively respond. With the involvement of the government, inter-agency sectoral needs assessment will be conducted to manage resources and respond in a coordinated manner. In line with the Ten-Year National Comprehensive Refugee Response Strategy, Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan and the Global Compact on Refugees, RRP partners will assist the government in implementing the response as well as its commitment on pledges towards an integrated approach to refugee assistance, strengthening self-reliance, and reinforcing solutions strategies.

The 25 partners in the 2024 response will promote quality assurance mechanisms, including monitoring through regular field visits and coordination meetings at sub-office and camp levels, sharing timely information and coordinating sectoral interventions to avoid duplication. Capacity-building will be provided to national and local institutions including refugee-led groups with the aim of promoting localization and inclusion.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

25 Partners involved	UN Agencies 7	International NGOs 14	National NGOs 4
	$133,399,457	$27,410,089	$14,950,434
		FBOs 5	FBOs 1
		$6,069,766	$5,606,6000

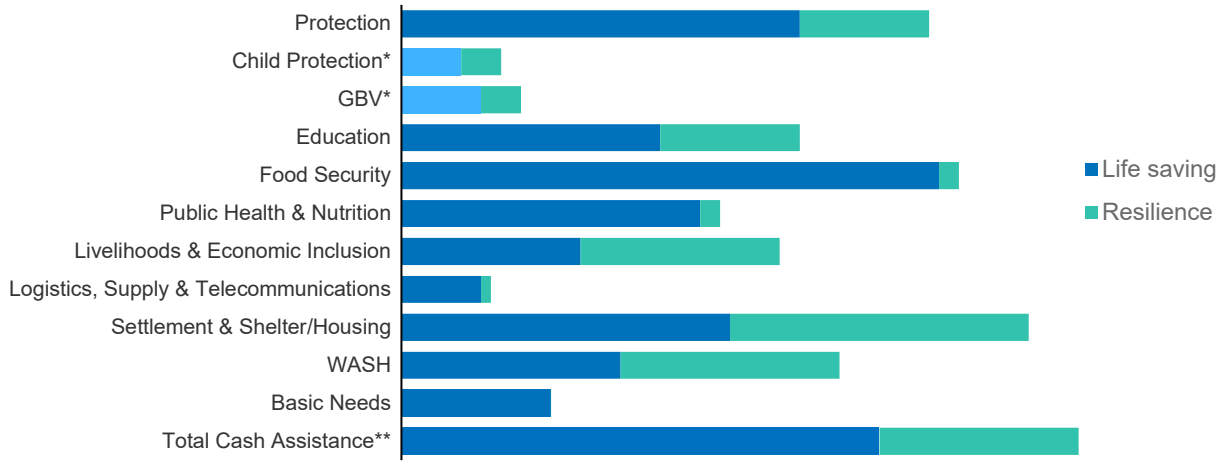
Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP. Many other national and local actors, including grassroots organizations collaborate with RRP partners to carry out RRP activities..

Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	***Life Saving***	***Resilience/Systems Strengthening***	***Total in USD***
Protection	$19,867,187	*$6,538,531*	$26,403,718
➢ *Of which Child Protection*	$2,795,726	$1,915,726	$4,711,452
➢ *Of Which GBV*	$4,098,000	$1,730,000	$5,828,000
Education	$12,614,864	$ 6,873,584	$19,488,448
Food Security	$26,656,317	$1,200,000	$27,856,317
Public Health and Nutrition	$15,343,933	$ 1,335,596	$16,679,528
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	$9,311,728	$10,285,000	$19,596,728
Logistics, Supply and Telecommunications	$3,640,966	$545,770	$4,186,736
Settlement and Shelter/Housing	$16,550,000	$15,030,000	$31,580,000
WASH	$11,234,514	$11,237,004	$22,471,518
Basic Needs	$7,476,010	$ 20,977	$7,496,987
Total	**$122,693,519**	**$53,066,461**	**$175,759,980**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget*

*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Type	Requirements in USD
National NGO			**14,950,434**
ACTION FOR THE NEEDY IN ETHIOPIA	ANE	NNGO	6,500,000
ASSOCIATION OF ETHIOPIANS EDUCATED IN GERMANY	AEEG	NNGO	204,434
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND INTER CHURCH AID COMMISSION	DICAC	NNGO/FBO	5,606,000
REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	RaDO	NNGO	2,640,000
International NGO			**27,410,089**
DANCHURCHAID	DCA	INGO/FBO	855,000
GOAL	Goal	INGO	500,000
HELPAGE INTERNATIONAL	HAI	INGO	1,200,000
INNOVATIVE HUMANITARIAN SOLUTIONS	IHS	INGO	337,000
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLES	CISP	INGO	665,968
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS	IMC	INGO	100,000
INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE	IRC	INGO	2,520,620
LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION	LWF	INGO/FBO	1,200,000
MERCY CORPS	MERCY CORPS	INGO	3,000,000
NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID	NCA	INGO/FBO	1,468,148
NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL	NRC	INGO	12,800,000
PLAN INTERNATIONAL	PI	INGO	216,735
WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL	WVI	INGO/FBO	346,618
ZOA	ZOA	INGO/FBO	2,200,000

United Nations			**133,399,457**
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION	FAO	UN	7,168,000
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION	IOM	UN	7,200,000
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND	UNICEF	UN	9,776,499
UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES	UNHCR	UN	81,309,078
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND	UNFPA	UN	2,500,000
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	WFP	UN	22,945,880
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	WHO	UN	2,500,000
Total USD			**175,759,980**

Libya
Country chapter

Humanitarian aid to families that have arrived in Libya since the outset of the Sudan crisis

At a Glance

Libya Planned Response

July-December 2024

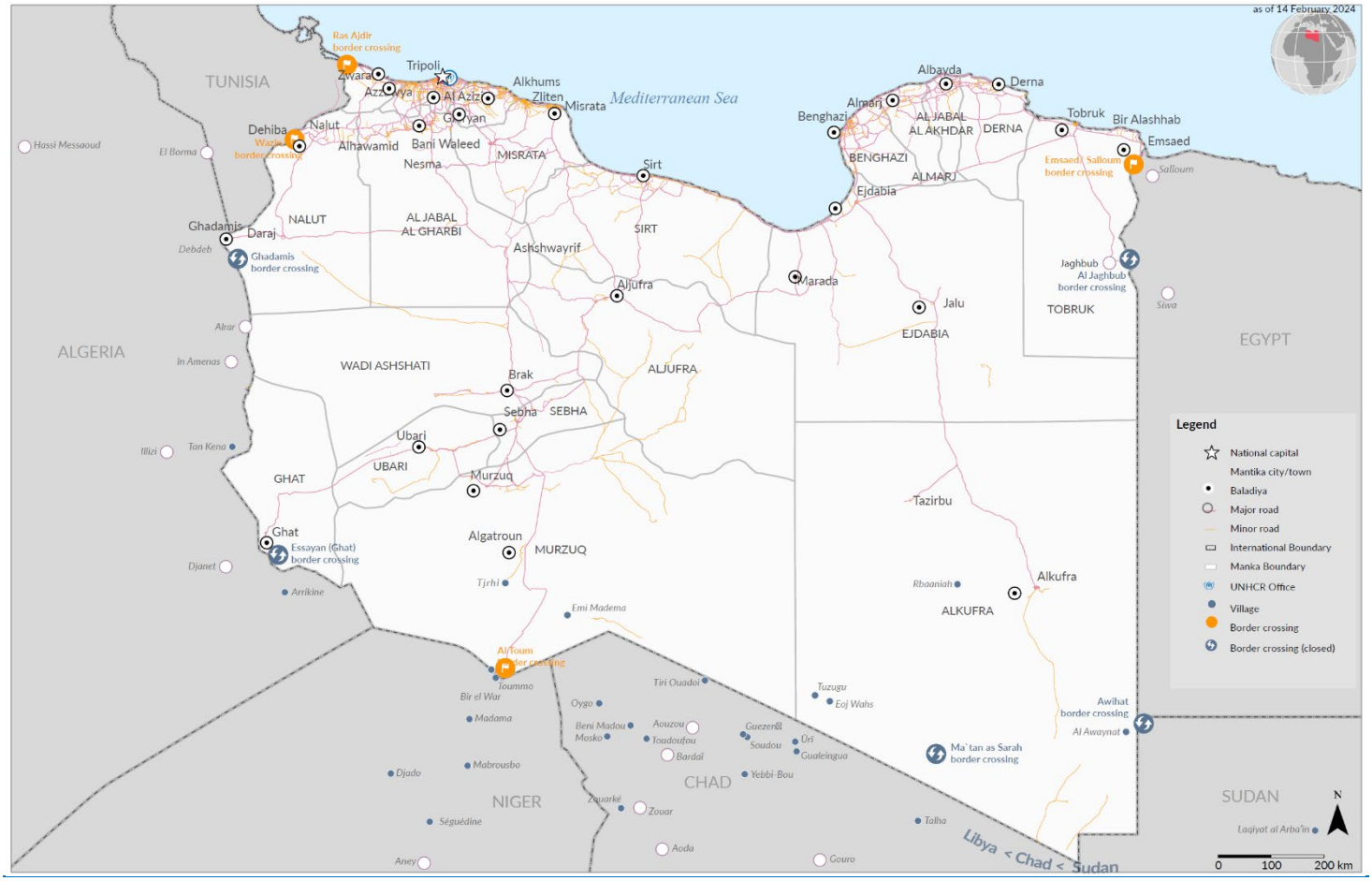
149 K
Refugees

1K
Third Country Nationals

45 K
Host Community

USD
48.6 M
Total Financial requirements

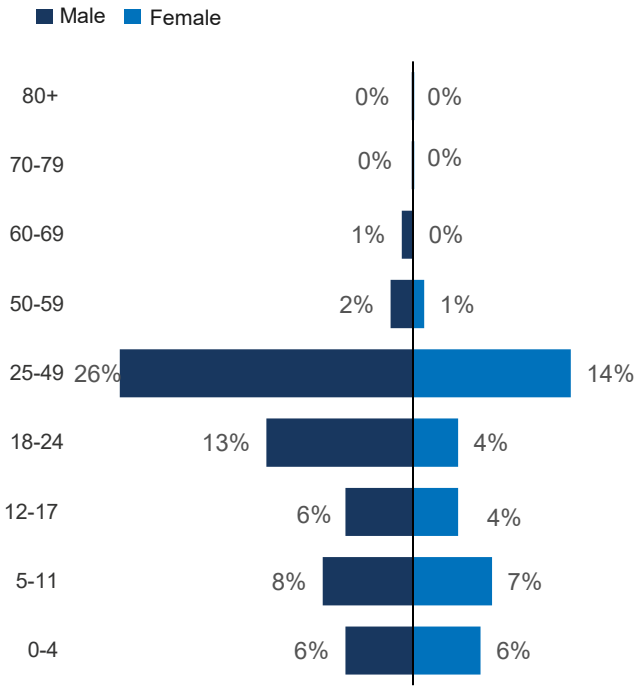
17
RRP Partners



Population Planning Figures

Country	Sudanese refugees pre 15 April 2023	New Arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Refugee Population	24,000	20,000	149,000[41]
Third Country Nationals			1,000
Host Community			**45,000**
Total projected population in need			**195,000**

Age and gender breakdown



33%
People with disabilities

38%
Women and girls

62%
Men and boys

38%
Children

[41] The planned population as of end of 2024 includes both registered and un-registered refugees to be assisted under the plan.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Libya remains both a major destination and transit country for large mixed movement flows, including refugees and migrants, due to its geographical position and porous land borders with neighbouring countries. While Libya is a signatory to the OAU Refugee Convention, refugees and asylum-seekers are considered as illegal migrants and their status as asylum-seekers or refugees is not recognized in current Libyan legislation. Nevertheless, authorities allow Sudanese refugees to enter the country, authorizing further in-land movement for those whose health status is confirmed to be satisfactory, and providing different assistance through authorities. The authorities have also permitted Sudanese refugee children to attend schools and have waived enrolment procedures.

The Sudanese community in Libya is actively engaged in assisting newly arriving refugees and their families. However, with an increasing number of Sudanese refugees arriving since the onset of the war in April 2023, and especially post November 2023, the assistance and services provided locally through public facilities is stretched to a maximum and requires additional support.

As of mid-June 2024, UNHCR has registered over 65,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities. Additionally, IOM's DTM reports the presence of over 719,000 migrants. Among the registered refugees, over 40,000 (or 60 per cent) are from Sudan, making them the largest refugee population in Libya. Since the crisis began in April 2023, UNHCR has registered over 20,000 Sudanese who reported arriving in Libya after mid-April 2023. Of this group, 83 per cent reported having one or more specific needs, with approximately 65 per cent lacking a legal document such as a national passport. The newly arrived refugees fleeing Sudan, including Sudanese, and TCNs arrive predominantly directly from Sudan (68 per cent), followed by those travelling via Chad (11 per cent), Sudanese refugees who stayed in Chad (8 per cent) and 6 per cent who arrive via Egypt.

Country Risks and Needs

Since the onset of the crisis in April 2023, UNHCR's protection teams have conducted protection assessments with the newly arriving Sudanese to better understand their needs, main challenges and risks they face. With over 6,000 households surveyed so far, 94 per cent stated they used unofficial border crossings to enter Libya, including directly from Sudan or by secondary movements through Egypt and Chad. Eight per cent attempted to cross to Europe in search of safety and a better economic future. Key risks faced include trafficking, smuggling, assault, and detention.

A year into the crisis, more in-depth surveys by UNHCR revealed that 40 per cent fled Sudan within the last months due to intensified conflict, with 61 per cent leaving their immediate family members behind in Sudan. Other reasons for fleeing included lack of financial means (7 per cent), detention and release (3 per cent), and inability to work, attend school or access basic services (2 per cent). Over half of the respondents reported having been internally displaced in Sudan at least once before fleeing to Libya. Almost 80 per cent stated the intensifying conflict as the main reason for their decision to leave Sudan.

WHO and UNICEF conducted health and WASH assessments in Alkufra in April 2024 showing key gaps including lack of essential medical supplies, health staff and a lack of nutrition services. In May-June 2024, UNICEF in collaboration with the Primary Health Care Institute, local authorities in the eastern region and the emergency cell in Alkufra conducted a nutrition screening campaign among newly arriving Sudanese refugees identifying significant malnutrition scores.

Earlier in the year, IOM conducted a rapid needs assessment among recently arrived Sudanese refugees in Tobruk with findings demonstrating that onwards movement to Europe is identified as a possibility by most Sudanese refugees due to lack of services and employment opportunities.

Sudanese refugees seeking to register with UNHCR can only do so at the UNHCR registration centre in Tripoli. This travel puts a serious financial burden on them and is only feasible for those who can travel from the East or Southern parts of the country to Tripoli.

As global factors impact the supply of goods, both the Libyan host community and refugees are experiencing higher prices for basic goods and commodities as well as rent, leading to financial hardship for both groups. Ongoing protection needs assessments and communication with the Sudanese communities by the various UNHCR protection teams over the past year continues to highlight the struggles and challenges many Sudanese refugees reported in meeting their basic needs, especially rent and health costs, with the majority living in overcrowded conditions. Access to job opportunities also remains a challenge.

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy

Role of the State of Libya

Libya has a long tradition of welcoming and hosting significant numbers of refugees and migrants from Sudan, and the response to the latest crisis further confirms this practice.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) represents the overarching partnership framework for peacebuilding and development cooperation between the UN and the State of Libya for the period 2023—2025. The Cooperation Framework started a new phase of UN support for advancing Libya's development priorities and the 2030 Agenda by collectively addressing the key challenges currently facing the country. In this effort, the UN and the State of Libya commit to working jointly with partners and stakeholders, in support of the priorities of the cooperation framework, and in the spirit of partnership, mutual respect and collaboration towards the collective aim of accelerating the country's progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the benefit of all people in Libya.

Under the Cooperation Framework, the UN and its partners continue to support the immediate humanitarian needs of refugees, including women and girls, to improve their safety and well-being. This includes increasing access to education, WASH, health, nutrition, protection – including child protection and legal advocacy – and improved living conditions, as well as continuous support for durable solutions in countries of origin or third countries.

Inter-Agency Response

In April 2024 an inter-agency response plan was developed, to coordinate the response capacities of UN and INGOs in the east of the country, where most Sudanese refugees arrived but also in other parts of the country, including in Tripoli. Within their respective mandates, UN agencies have been aligning their interventions with the UNSDCF, in key sectors such as protection, health, food security, education, among others, with UNHCR leading the overall coordination platform for the response.

At the UNHCR-led Inter-Agency Working Group meeting on Sudanese situation, that include UN agencies and international NGOs operational in Libya, an important recommendation was made to form task forces to implement the activities of the RRP in Libya. Eight task forces were formed on Protection, Food, Health/Nutrition, WASH, Education, Shelter/NFI, Access and Information Management. Each task force will develop a work plan to ensure timely and effective coordination and implementation of the response plan.

In May 2024, UNHCR appointed a Senior Coordinator based in Benghazi to coordinate and manage the inter-agency response in Libya on Sudanese refugees. This facilitates coordination with UN agencies, international NGOs, national aid organizations, and relevant government authorities to ensure an effective coordination mechanism in order to meet the needs of Sudanese refugees.

Coordination with local authorities and community leaders is crucial to the successful implementation of these programs. Regular assessments and data collection are conducted and shared to monitor the evolving needs and adapt interventions accordingly. Efforts are also made to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of resources, with continuous engagement of donors to secure the necessary funding for sustained operations.

Country Strategic Objectives

In support of government-led and community-led efforts, the 2024 RRP will contribute to: i) maintaining the capacity to respond to the continuous arrival of Sudanese refugees in Libya for those requiring immediate humanitarian support and supporting local host communities to mitigate some of the impacts as a result of the crisis; ii) identify persons most at risk and in vulnerable situations, such as unaccompanied children, women at risk, GBV survivors, and provide targeted assistance and specialized protection services; and iii) support the State of Libya in close coordination with donors/embassies/consulates to assist third country nationals (TCNs) to voluntarily return to their countries of origin or identify complementary pathways for Sudanese refugees (e.g. family reunification, etc.).

The 2024 plan also introduces a deliberate and important shift in the response towards resilience-oriented interventions – with a particular focus on national systems strengthening and to a certain extent promoting livelihood opportunities. The plan will support the capacity of communities and institutions to extend services and assistance to refugees, which will help to avoid overstretching of resources intended to host communities, especially in rural areas. As set out in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the Libya activities also continue to pursue a "whole-of-society" approach designed to support the host authorities in leading the response. It builds on the capacities of the refugees themselves and supports the communities acting as first responders.

SO1: *Provide life-saving protection and humanitarian assistance:* Provide well-coordinated comprehensive multi-sectoral life-saving protection and humanitarian assistance to new arrivals and unregistered refugees and provide resilience-based support to host communities. This also includes non-Sudanese refugees who were registered with UNHCR in Sudan and fled due to the crisis.

SO2: *Identify and assist people at risk and in vulnerable situations:* Identify persons most at risk and in vulnerable situations, such as unaccompanied children, women at risk, GBV survivors, people with disabilities, and provide targeted assistance and specialized protection services.

SO3: *Strengthen local host communities (burden sharing):* Support the State of Libya in close coordination with donors/UNCT/partners in responsibility/burden sharing and ensuring that local host communities/institutions are strengthened to accommodate the influx of new arrivals and as needed, existing Sudanese population in Libya in need, with special focus on health and education sectors.

SO4: *Voluntary durable solutions*: Support the State of Libya in close coordination with UNCT/donors/embassies/consulates, to assist TCNs with immigration procedures to enable their safe, dignified, and sustainable return to their countries of origin, on voluntary basis.

The 2023-2025 UNHCR Protection and Solutions Strategy in Libya is aligned with the UNSDCF as well as the GCR. Many of the interventions listed below are also aimed at reinforcing socio-economic opportunities for forcibly displaced people and host communities. The inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national social services will be pursued to strengthen their self-reliance and resilience through the realization of their rights, especially towards their inclusion in the health and education sectors and will highlight the State of Libya's commitment to ensuring access to these rights. Attaining tangible results relies on effective coordination with and complementary interventions of major stakeholders and development actors, including the government and other multi-lateral and bilateral partners.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

The Protection Task Force, chaired by UNHCR, will continue to advocate for access to areas hosting Sudanese refugees, increased assistance and services for Sudanese refugees at heightened risks and the compliance with principle of international refugee law, such as non-refoulement, particularly for persons detained for irregular entry to the country.

The registration of Sudanese refugees and protection needs assessments by UNHCR are top priorities. Through IOM's DTM and UNHCR's protection surveys, data will be collected to improve information for interventions by participating agencies and the international community at large. Protection assistance includes sharing information with Sudanese refugees through communication with communities, community members and the public; This is ongoing and is facilitated through various platforms by RRP partners to enhance guidance to available services. UNHCR will also strengthen outreach activities through field visits, mainly in Tripoli, to reach Sudanese refugees at heightened risks or refugees who might not have been registered yet.

Even though the numbers of pledges for durable solutions in third countries remain limited, Sudanese refugees were comprised 45 per cent of those individuals for whom resettlement, evacuation or other complementary pathways were identified in 2023 and who departed Libya.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

The child protection sub-task force, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNHCR, will collaborate closely with the overarching goal of ensuring that refugee children have access to basic services, especially education. Alternative care arrangements for children will be strengthened particularly for unaccompanied or separated children, including through community-based approaches. Child protection actors will provide the needed services, including Best Interest Procedures for children.

Coordination at the country level will be further strengthened through the child protection sub-task force, using inter-agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), to ensure a coordinated response from child protection actors with agreed upon priorities. Task force members will continue providing non-specialized and specialized prevention and response services for children at risk and survivors of violence through psychosocial and mental health counselling to address the trauma they might have witnessed during the conflict in Sudan; this

includes mental health and psychosocial activities, case management, and other support. In addition, efforts will be made to raise awareness on existing services and make referrals to relevant service providers.

Sub-sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV)

The GBV sub-task force will focus on the following interventions:

i) Strengthen the provision of and facilitate access to specialized GBV response services including distribution of gender sensitive hygiene products and dignity kits, access to Women and Girls Safe Spaces, psychosocial first aid, mental health and psychosocial support, clinical management of rape, medical services for survivors of female genital mutilation (FGM), integrated reproductive and maternal health services and information and legal aid;

ii) Ensure standardization and harmonization of GBV case management tools and referral pathways for actors that are actively engaged in the response, based on the relevant inter-agency SOPs;

iii) Reinforce GBV mainstreaming through technical support to other sectors and implement safety audits and tailored trainings to frontline responders and community members on GBV risk mitigation and safe and ethical GBV disclosures;

iv) Prevention activities focusing on women and girls' social and economic empowerment, supporting community-based prevention mechanisms, and engaging men and boys;

v) GBV sector leads, and other appealing partners will reinforce their presence in neighbourhoods where refugees live and the risks of GBV are higher; and

vi) Strengthen the capacities of the partners in ethical and safe data collection and management through the use of the GBV Information Management System (GBV IMS+).

GBV partners will enhance the coordination with the other task forces, particularly child protection, health and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Collaboration and capacity building for key stakeholders will be strengthened. The provision of psychosocial support and stress reduction programmes for frontline workers will also be prioritized.

Education

The education task force, chaired by UNICEF, will support refugee children through the provision of formal and non-formal education. With the Libyan authorities allowing Sudanese children to access the national educations system, including the waiving of enrolment fees, a crucial first step for refugee children has already been achieved. However, with some Sudanese children having been out of school for over one year, support in the enrolment to out-of-school children into national schools will be provided through UNICEF. Basic education needs of Sudanese refugee children newly arriving in Libya will be supported through access to Baity centres in Alkufra, Ajdabiya, Benghazi and Tripoli, including non-formal education classes, remedial classes and life skills activities for children and youth.

Individual learning material to newly arrived Sudanese children will be provided to ensure they are able to attend formal education. In addition, to enhance access to national education, infrastructure rehabilitation of public schools through quick impact projects in areas with higher concentration of Sudanese refugee children will be implemented, also benefitting Libyan children with a learning environment conducive to quality and successful studying.

Food Security

The food security task force, chaired by WFP, will respond to the emergency and longer-term food and nutrition needs of Sudanese refugees arriving and residing in Libya, through a humanitarian–development–peace nexus approach, implemented through unconditional food assistance via in-kind or cash transfers.

WFP will facilitate access to essential food needs to crisis affected populations through two modalities: in-kind rations and Cash-Based Transfers (CBT). In kind rations are provided to crisis affected Sudanese populations upon their arrival in country, while monthly CBT allow refugees and newly arrived Sudanese to meet their basic needs in urban settings over prolonged time periods. In addition, RRP partners will collaborate with Libyan authorities, and academic and private sector institutions to identify and advocate for sustainable solutions for refugee communities in Libya to access their basic needs and reach food security levels.

Public Health & Nutrition

The health task force, co-chaired by WHO and the Ministry of Health, will support health care services in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Public health infrastructure will be strengthened through provision of life-saving medicine and medical equipment, consumables and vaccines, along with upskilling the health workforce and establishing/updating of SOPs and guidelines. The public health and nutrition activities are a top priority due to the large number of people in need of health assistance arriving in Libya and the limited resources, particularly in rural areas currently available. This approach will address needs of refugees and the host community, enhancing the resilience and capacity of the health system.

Special attention will be given to addressing acute malnutrition in children and pregnant and lactating women, as well as mental, reproductive and child health with considerations of GBV. Health assistance in border areas will be improved by providing in-kind support, staff training and capacity building on disease surveillance, rapid response, laboratory and diagnostic services, emergency referral services and, mental health, among other topics.

Health services include preventative services such as vaccination and communicable disease control and non-communicable disorders, including cold chain management and provision of technical support, capacity building and health information management through supporting the Health Information Centre (HIC).

Health interventions also include GBV survivors and survivors of harmful practices such as FGM, as well as referrals to secondary and tertiary care, including emergency obstetric and newborn care (EMONC). The health task force will work closely with the WASH task force to prevent and control disease, especially water-borne diseases.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion (LEI)

Coordination on livelihoods and economic inclusion (LEI) will aim to simultaneously meet the goals of market-based economic empowerment of refugees and vulnerable host communities. Partners will focus on building the resilience of the refugee and vulnerable host community families against economic shocks and stresses as well as foster social cohesion between refugees and host communities and develop local capacity to respond to the refugee influx through an integrated socioeconomic inclusion strategy.

LEI partners will operationalize the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by developing medium and long-term scenarios to build refugees and host community's resilience. This approach will require interventions with national authorities, institutions, civil society, and the private sector to improve refugees' socioeconomic inclusion and access to the labour market, including self-employment and entrepreneurship. Partnering with relevant entities will promote crucial interventions that can benefit from the skills and capacities of refugees and the host community, Women, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), youth, and other vulnerable groups will receive tailored programmes.

This will help authorities address the refugee influx to increase national ownership and engage civil society and the private sector in attaining economic and social development. Partners will also conduct socio-economic profiling, stakeholder mapping, evaluating market access gaps, and assessment of refugees' economic contribution, to inform programming, advocacy efforts and partnerships, providing refugees with information, self-employment support and job counselling to be able to access services and market opportunities.

Settlement & Shelter/Housing

The shelter task force, co-chaired by IOM and UNHCR, will aim to improve the housing conditions of Sudanese refugees living in Libya and the social cohesion with host communities.

Identified shelters will be rehabilitated in close collaboration with partners and agencies that have a specific mandate on the provision of services to the target populations. Selection criteria including economic vulnerability will be used to provide shelter assistance appropriate to the needs. To foster social cohesion with the host communities, improvement and maintenance of community infrastructure such as schools and health facilities will be done through quick impact projects in areas with a high concentration of refugees/migrants.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The WASH task force, chaired by UNICEF, will improve refugees' access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities to protect from waterborne diseases and promote their overall health and well-being. WASH partners will work closely with local water and sanitation authorities and the Libyan Red Crescent Society to provide life-saving emergency WASH interventions, including improving access to safe and sufficient quality and quantity of water for drinking and domestic purposes through water trucking and provision of core relief items and critical WASH supplies including family hygiene kits and menstrual/dignity kits for women and girls.

Preparedness activities will include, identifying, and assessing potential transit locations/ points of entry, pre-positioning WASH supplies and equipment and hygiene items and training staff on WASH preparedness and response procedures. The WASH' response will improve water supply through the construction of additional water storage and distribution points, rehabilitate water points to ensure sustainable and constant source of water with rational use.

Communication and hygiene promotion campaigns will be conducted to raise awareness on the importance of handwashing, and proper sanitation practices. Moreover, to maintain a clean and healthy environment partners will support wastewater management to mitigate risk of waterborne diseases transmission, by supporting / maintaining functionality of sewage infrastructure and supporting the General Company of Water and Wastewater (GCWW) to prevent stagnation of wastewater and improving wastewater management in informal settlements coupled with raising awareness on hygienic and safe practices through Social and Behavioral Changes (SBC) campaigns.

Basic Needs

The cash & market task force, chaired by UNHCR, will enhance the operational coordination on cash transfers and follow a common rationale approach. This includes avoidance of duplication, harmonization of tools and transfer modalities, reporting and monitoring among humanitarian actors, and coordinating complementary programmes by different organizations and cash actors to ensure a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response. The task force jointly agrees on updating the Market Expenditure Basket and a harmonized Cash Transfer Value to ensure Sudanese refugees benefit from equal assistance across the country. Further, common indicators and a joint post distribution monitoring tool are put in place.

CBI partners will continue providing a Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to address the basic needs of Sudanese refugees at heightened risks. To complement this effort, WFP will provide cash assistance to sustain food security. UNHCR and WFP, will update the existing targeting methodology ensuring accurate prioritization of vulnerabilities so that available resources are dedicated to those who need it the most. Presently, an automated mathematical algorithm is employed to assess eligibility, considering various factors, including age, family size, disability status, educational background, and employment status, among others.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
  - Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion
  - Sub-Section: Youth
  - Sub- Section: Older People
- Accountability to Affected People (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Climate Action
- Cash Assistance

Read more in the Regional Overview pp. 16 -17

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

The influx of refugees in Libya is putting pressure on existing national services, social services infrastructure, and economic systems. In some cases, it is also leading to inter and intra-community tensions. To mitigate those impacts, cooperation among humanitarian, development and peace actors is crucial. Humanitarian organizations will address basic needs and humanitarian priorities both with a short and long-term perspective. They will work in coordination and complementarity with development and peace actors; linkages with Libya's development priorities and plans will be established as much as possible, to tackle the causes and consequences of the current economic crisis which impacts the inclusion of refugees in local systems and services.

Development actors, including financial institutions, as well as the private sector will be encouraged to engage for medium to long-term sustainability related to the economic challenges Libya is facing, to achieve the SDGs, strengthen national systems, and ensure no one is left behind.

Partnership and Coordination

In support of the State of Libya, UNHCR leads and coordinates the humanitarian refugee response plan for Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers. The current coordination structure in Libya within the UN Country Team remains the same since the beginning of the Sudan crisis in April 2023.

The UN Country Team, chaired by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, convenes on weekly basis and is the main body at the strategic level, which involves Heads of UN agencies, national and international organizations. This forum oversees the task forces, provides strategic guidance at technical level and develops common advocacy.

The task forces are chaired by the respective UN agencies, national and international organizations, involving sector and sub-sectors task force leads and co-leads. The aim is good coordination and operationalization between different sectors, to ensure coherence, avoid duplication, coordinate the appeal process including the monitoring and evaluation exercise as well as reporting. While specific national NGO requirements are not listed in the response plan, local organizations are essential actors in the response, acting independently but also as implementing partners of UN agencies. Additionally, the Libyan Red Crescent is an essential governmental partner and, critically, the one with operational access to areas of the country where the majority of refugees arrive.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

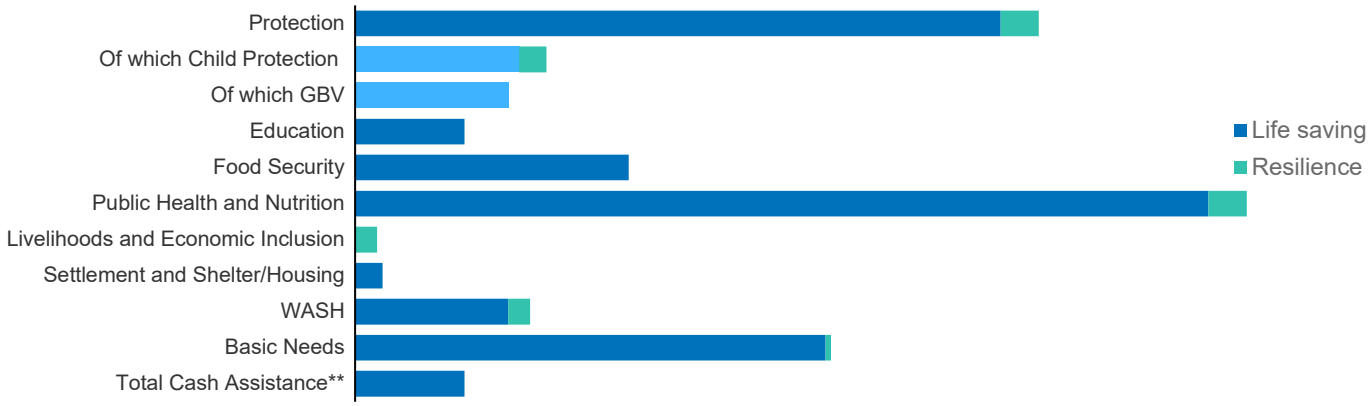
17 Partners Involved	UN Agencies 6	International NGOs 11
	$,31,665,000	$16,945,000

Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	*Life Saving*	*Resilience/Systems Strengthening*	*Total in USD*
Protection	*11,830,000*	*700,000*	12,530,000
➢ *Of which Child Protection*	*3,073,000*	*500,000*	3,573,000
➢ *Of which GBV*	*2,757,000*	*0*	2,757,000
Education	*2,005,000*	*0*	2,005,000
Food Security	*4,985,000*	*0*	4,985,000
Public Health and Nutrition	*15,585,000*	*700,000*	16,285,000
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	*0*	*400,000*	400,000
Settlement and Shelter/Housing	*470,000*	*0*	470,000
WASH	*2,770,000*	*400,000*	3,170,000
Basic Needs	*8,615,000*	*150,000*	8,765,000
Total	***46,260,000***	***2,350,000***	**48,610,000**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is a proven best practice modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acroynm /Short Title	Type	Requirements in USD
International NGO			**16,945,000**
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	ACTED	INGO	1,500,000
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	CESVI	INGO	530,000
Danish Refugee Council	DRC	INGO	2,000,000
HELPCODE/ ODP	HELPCODE/ ODP	INGO	700,000
IMPACT INITIATIVE	IMPACT INITIATIVE	INGO	135,000
International Medical Corps	IMC	INGO	3,000,000
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO	3,290,000
INTERSOS	INTERSOS	INGO	1,365,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO	2,125,000
Premiere Urgence International	PUI	INGO	1,400,000
Terre Des Hommes International	TDH	INGO	900,000
United Nations			**31,665,000**
International Organization for Migration	IOM	UN	4,070,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	UN	5,750,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	10,000,000
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	UN	2,135,000
World Food Programme	WFP	UN	4,460,000
World Health Organization	WHO	UN	5,250,000
Total (USD)			**48,610,000**

South Sudan
Country Chapter

Heavy rains disrupted life at the UNHCR transit centre in Renk, Upper Nile State, South Sudan, which hosts thousands of Sudanese and other refugees together with South Sudanese returnees who have fled the conflict in Sudan.

©UNHCR/ Samuel Otieno

At a Glance

South Sudan Planned Response

January-December 2024

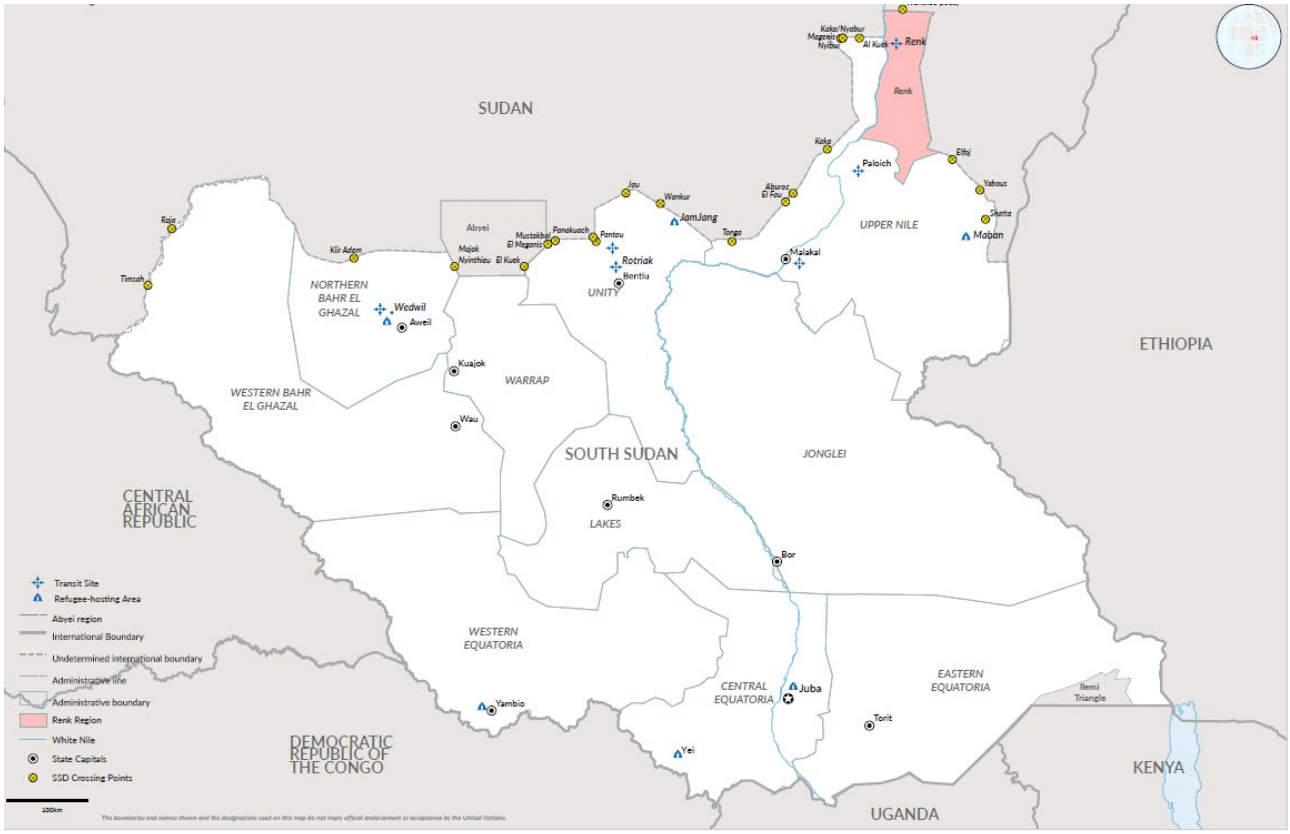
447 K[42]
Refugees

500
Third Country Nationals

89.5 K
Host Community

USD
372.9 M
Total Financial requirements

42
RRP Partners



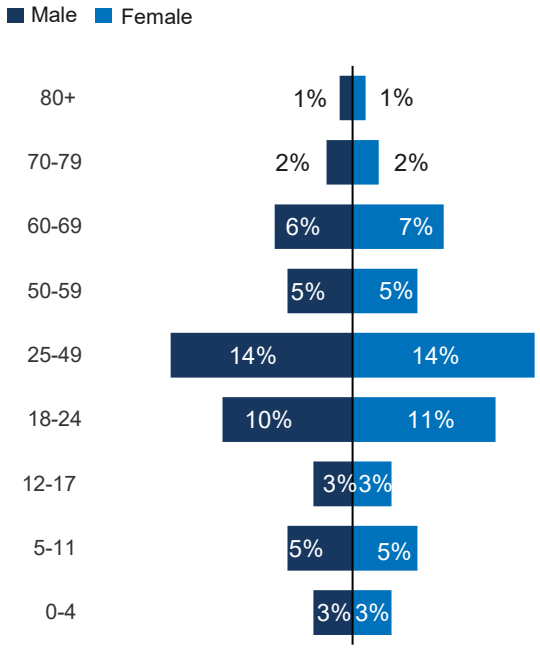
[42] *The response for refugees from Sudan is also included in the Country RRP for South Sudan, which reflects the inter-agency response for all refugees in South Sudan.*

Population Planning Figures

Country	Sudanese refugees pre-15 April 2023	New Arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Refugee Population	289,797	77,159	447,000
Returnees		403,574	820,000*
Third Country Nationals		4,780	500
Host Community			89,500
Total projected population in need			**537,000**

**Note: A projected 820,000 returnees, both refugee and migrant, are included in the 2024 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan and are not part of the planning figures for the Sudan Regional RRP.*

Age and gender breakdown



16%

People with disabilities

51%

Women and girls

49%

Men and boys

22%

Children

MID-YEAR UPDATE

Highlights

Since the start of the year, 217,167 individuals have arrived from Sudan, including 70,277 refugees and asylum-seekers, bringing South Sudan's total refugee population to 464,593. Daily average arrivals have decreased from 1,800 in 2023 to 1,400 in 2024, with most arriving in Renk through the Joda border crossing (82 per cent). The overall economic and humanitarian situation in South Sudan further deteriorated with the Minimum Expenditure Basket increasing by 48 per cent between April 2023 and March 2024.

The new extension of the Renk Transit Centre was opened in early January with a capacity to host 2,200 individuals but is currently hosting 7,660 refugees and returnees. As of the end of May 2024, 18,586 refugees were estimated to be in Renk, of which 40 per cent live with the host community. After the road reopened from Renk to Maban in January, only 3,394 refugees were relocated to Maban. In coordination with authorities, alternative locations for refugee relocation are being explored, including relocating 1,698 refugees to Jamjang. Despite security challenges in Abyei, the first relocation in four months took place recently, with 261 individuals relocated to Wedwil Refugee Settlement. Preparedness efforts continued in Renk and other locations, anticipating a mass influx from White Nile State and Kordofan, also with a focus on the upcoming rainy season. South Sudan is projected to experience record-level flooding from June to September, severely affecting Maban and Renk. 187,000 refugees are projected to be affected by the floods in South Sudan in refugee camps and settlements, in addition to 55,000 new arrivals refugees projected to be affected in Renk.

Consequences of underfunding

As of June, the response in South Sudan is just 16 per cent funded.

Lack of funding affects living conditions in transit centres, refugee camps and settlements, transportation to alternative sites to help with decongestion and reduce protection risks in transit sites, logistics and the provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs).

- Without the necessary funds, the Renk Transit Centre will remain overcrowded, exacerbating protection risks, especially for women and girls. The lack of proper infrastructure, such as access roads, drainage systems, and sanitation facilities, will lead to severe health hazards and mobility issues during the rainy season, further deteriorating the living conditions for the displaced populations.

- Insufficient funding for onward transportation will result in prolonged stays at already overcrowded reception and transit sites, heightening the risk of protection issues, malnutrition and spread of communicable diseases and delaying the integration of refugees into more stable environments. This stagnation can lead to increased tension and conflict within the sites.

- The inability to expand refugee camps and settlements will lead to severe overcrowding in existing facilities, compromising basic services such as shelter, water, sanitation, and education. This will increase the risk of disease outbreaks, poor educational outcomes for children, and heightened vulnerability of residents, particularly women and children.

- Without adequate funding, new arrivals will lack essential non-food items, such as kitchen sets, mosquito nets, soap, and blankets, necessary for basic living conditions.

- Insufficient funds for protection activities will hinder the expansion of protection desks and the provision of support for gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection programming. This will leave vulnerable groups, including women, girls, and children, without necessary protection and support services, increasing their exposure to abuse and exploitation.

- A lack of funding for logistics will disrupt the transportation of essential items from global warehouses to Juba and field locations. This will lead to delays in delivering critical supplies, exacerbating the challenges displaced populations face and potentially leading to life-threatening shortages.

Priority needs

Flood Preparedness: Without adequate flood preparedness measures, refugee camps and transit locations will remain vulnerable to flooding, displacing already displaced populations and host communities, destroying infrastructure, and increased health risks due to waterborne diseases. Community structures will also be ill-prepared to handle the impact of floods, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

South Sudan – the world's newest country – faced considerable challenges even before the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, which has since led to a large influx of people crossing through South Sudan's northern borders to seek refuge. The displacement crisis in South Sudan is one of the largest in Africa with an estimated 2 million people displaced inside South Sudan[43] and another 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees in the neighbouring countries.[44] An estimated population of nine million people within South Sudan are projected to require humanitarian aid and protection services in 2024, including 2.2 million women and 4.9 million children.[45]

Before the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, South Sudan hosted 300,644 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Sudan. South Sudan continued to receive refugees and asylum-seekers throughout the year with arrival rates reflecting the dynamics and intensity of the conflict in Sudan. In mid-December 2023, due to a sharp increase in the level of fighting in Al Jazirah State in Sudan leading to nearly half a million people being forcibly displaced from the area, South Sudan saw an increase in arrivals at an average of 1,500 people per day. Throughout late November and December 2023, due to the worsening of the security situation as the conflict spread to other areas of Sudan, higher numbers of Sudanese refugees and refugees of other nationalities sought safety in South Sudan, with over 3,100 arrivals on 22 December 2023. By 31 December 2023, some 78,150 refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan had arrived in South Sudan. In line with the current conflict dynamics, it is anticipated 80,000 refugees will arrive primarily from Sudan in 2024.

By December 2024, South Sudan is expected to host an estimated 447,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, marking a 50 per cent increase in the overall population since April 2023. Around 57 per cent of the new arrivals have fled from Khartoum, with a smaller proportion of people originating from the Darfur region and White Nile State. One per cent of new arrivals are registered refugees in Sudan of various nationalities, primarily Eritrean and Ethiopian. Children below the age of 18 years account for over 59 per cent of the refugee and asylum-seeker population of South Sudan. About 98 per cent of refugees reside in 12 camps and settlements across the country, with the remaining 2 per cent in urban locations. Over 93 per cent of the refugee and asylum-seeker population of South Sudan originate from Sudan, while the remaining population originate from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and the Central African Republic, alongside a small number from Eritrea and Somalia.

South Sudan has a strong tradition of providing asylum to people seeking international protection, grounded in its Refugee Act (2012).[46] Before April 2023, South Sudan hosted close to 300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers on its territory, 93 per cent of whom were from Sudan, primarily living in refugee camps or settlements in States bordering Sudan. As of the end of December 2023, 475,549 refugees and returnees had fled from Sudan to South Sudan due to the unrelenting conflict, widespread violence and the humanitarian crisis in Sudan.[47]

Decades of conflict has left South Sudan chronically underdeveloped and vulnerable to instability. The UNDP Human Development Index ranks South Sudan as the least developed economy, the last out of 191 countries globally, based on life expectancy, education and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

South Sudan's economy is characterised by high levels of poverty, low national GDP, household consumption and exports, and ongoing hyperinflation due to a rapid depreciation of the country's currency.[48] South Sudan has great potential for agriculture, with the sector currently accounting for 36 per cent of its non-oil GDP and 80 per cent of households dependent on cultivation as their primary source of livelihoods.[49] However, the potential remains untapped due to low levels of agriculture inputs and techniques, difficulties in accessing markets, and very weak infrastructure such as a severe lack of all-weather roads.[50] The country continues to face severe food insecurity. The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is the result of an accumulation of interlocking factors and the legacy of decades of civil war, sub-national intercommunal violence, economic underdevelopment, flooding, poor infrastructure, climate change and food insecurity for more than 5.8 million people.[51] The conflict in neighbouring Sudan threatens to further destabilize the already fragile situation in the country.

Gender-based Violence (GBV) is one of the most significant threats to the protection space and well-being of women and children in South Sudan. GBV, which was

[43] South Sudan: Humanitarian Snapshot (November 2023), available at https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-snapshot-november-2023
[44] Source: UNHCR. Available at: https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan
[45] South Sudan: Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024 (Issued November 2023). Available at: https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2024-issued-november-2023
[46] South Sudan: Refugee Act of 2012 [South Sudan], Act No. 20, 5 June 2012, available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/51499cd02.html]
[47] IOM – UNHCR Joint Monitoring of Arrivals from Sudan to South Sudan, available here.
[48] UNDP: South Sudan Agricultural Value Chain: Challenges and Opportunities (Dec 2022),
[49] FAO: COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH SUDAN 2016- 2017, (2015)
[50] AFDB: South Sudan: A Study on Competitiveness and Cross Border Trade With Neighbouring Countries (2013)
[51] South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for September - November 2023 and Projections for December 2023 - March 2024 and for April - July 2024

widespread before the conflict, is now reaching epidemic proportions and poses a significant concern at the community level, as evident from the early findings of the national study on violence against women and men conducted in 2022 by the national protection cluster. The study revealed that 58 per cent of women and girls experienced at least one form of GBV over the last 12 months. In South Sudan, women and children have limited access to health care, resulting in maternal and child mortality rates which are among the highest in the world. Maternal mortality rates in South Sudan, are among the highest globally, with 789 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021 according to WHO. With the existing high influx of people into a country already strained in the provision of maternal health care, the situation is likely to worsen.

In 2023, an estimated 2.8 million children, of which over 53 per cent are girls, were out of school in South Sudan. This marks a significant increase from 2.2 million in 2016.[52]

The Sudan-South Sudan border is actively used for cross-border trade. In the past year, the South Sudanese pound has experienced a 55 per cent depreciation from SSP 454 to SSP 1,053 against the United States dollar. The north of the country is heavily dependent on Sudan for supplies of food, fuel and basic goods and due to currency depreciation, household purchasing power has declined. The conflict in Sudan has impacted fuel prices which have risen significantly, by some 266 per cent in Renk, Upper Nile State and 223 per cent in Yida, Ruweng Administrative Area – both important border crossing points into South Sudan.

Country Risks and Needs

Various hazards pose a threat to the response, hindering the delivery of adequate protection, assistance, and lasting solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers in South Sudan. These risks stem from the ongoing conflict in Sudan and are exacerbated by pre-existing operational challenges in South Sudan, impacting the ability of the government and partners to address and respond to the crisis effectively.

The rapid deterioration of the security situation in Sudan, leading to an abrupt influx of people into South Sudan, is one of the main risks. Changes in the dynamics of the conflict, such as an increase in fighting around the area of Khartoum, in Darfur, and the Kordofans, as well as the heightened risk of fighting spilling over into the White Nile, have escalated the situation. This escalation, along with further alignment of various factors in Sudan with the parties involved in the conflict, including ethnic militias, could lead to further displacement from Sudan and overwhelm the already overstretched response capacity of the government and its partners.

The fragile public infrastructure and social services will deteriorate in the event of sudden large population influxes or worsening security conditions. Additionally, weather conditions and heightened insecurity along routes in Sudan prevent safe pathways to reach South Sudan, exposing those forced to flee to increased risks of violence, exploitation, and extortion.

Large cross-border movements in adverse conditions combined with limited onward transportation due to funding and logistics constraints may lead to congestion in transit or reception centres. This will further amplify protection risks and increase the likelihood of the spread of communicable diseases. The cramped conditions in these centres compromise the physical and mental well-being of refugees, rendering them more susceptible to health hazards. Moreover, these congested environments can foster tensions among refugees and heighten the risk of GBV and other protection concerns. In South Sudan, GBV is a deeply rooted issue caused by gender inequalities and power imbalances. The occurrence of GBV is difficult to predict or control due to factors like cultural norms, socioeconomic conditions and conflict. The urgency and needs related to GBV can escalate rapidly with displacement, increased vulnerabilities, and influxes of returnees from Sudan and other neighbouring countries.

The socioeconomic challenges in South Sudan, characterised by high inflation, currency devaluation, and competition for limited resources, will further exacerbate the needs of current refugees and make it more difficult for new arrivals to settle down. Disruption of supply chains for basic commodities could exacerbate food insecurity, affecting over 54 per cent of the population already experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. Growing food insecurity may lead to negative consequences and harmful coping strategies, such as child labour, including in its worst forms, school dropouts, child marriage and other forms of neglect, marginalization and destitution, in turn increasing the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

With over 78,000 new arrivals from Sudan in 2023 and another 80,000 expected in 2024, a 50 per cent projected increase in the refugee and asylum-seeker population in South Sudan since the onset of the 2023 conflict in Sudan is expected. With refugees coming from various areas in Sudan and the already heightened needs of the host community in South Sudan, fostering peaceful coexistence within the host community and among refugees themselves will be a challenge. The delicate balance between new arrivals and those residing in camps and settlements before poses a significant challenge. Tensions may arise over resource scarcity and competition for livelihood opportunities. Harmonizing the diverse refugee population and promoting understanding between refugees and the host community is crucial for long-term stability.

The continuing spread of infectious diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea and/or cholera, measles, Hepatitis E virus (HEV), and COVID-19 will impact the physical,

[52] UNICEF South Sudan

mental health and psychosocial well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, especially women and girls. Women and girls are at a higher risk of contracting infectious diseases due to their domestic roles, including caring for sick family members, cleaning latrines, fetching and handling water and preparing contaminated raw food. The sudden outbreak or spread of infectious diseases will most likely impact the support network, as the outbreak can contribute to generating negative attitudes and behaviours, including increased violence against women and girls and denial of resources.

Climate change and food insecurity will continue to be key protection risks in South Sudan. As decreased rainfall and higher temperatures are projected to persist, an increase in conflict is likely largely over competition for increasingly scarce resources like land and water, both of which are essential for a country where most of the population depends on agriculture, livestock, and forestry. Similarly, recurrent floods are expected to affect the access of vulnerable people including refugees to basic services, including health, livelihoods, and protection. Food insecurity is expected to be another major problem in South Sudan. Lack of food is directly linked to conflict, being both a consequence and a cause of communal violence. As intercommunal fighting continues to persist, the harvest is expected to decline, which will lead to food shortages, possible increase poaching and cattle raiding, further fuelling conflict and displacement.

Refugee and asylum-seeker children in South Sudan face various child protection risks, ranging from involuntary separation from families resulting in high numbers of unaccompanied and separated children; child labour, including in its worst forms, as well as child marriage exacerbated by the challenging economic situation, food insecurity and the reduction in assistance. Children with disabilities face challenges in accessing the support and assistance that they require for their specific needs. GBV, mental health and psychosocial distress are common amongst the population, as a result of the exposure to conflict, violence, loss and deprivation in Sudan and during the journey to safety.

The country ranks the second highest in having GBV risks in East Africa. A significant proportion of women and girls experience GBV in their lifetime, with 34 per cent facing physical violence and 13.5 per cent experiencing sexual violence. Additionally, 34.6 per cent of the population are reported to have been affected by child marriage in South Sudan.[53] The ongoing conflict in Sudan further exacerbates the risk of GBV for refugees and asylum-seekers in South Sudan. As of November 2023, women and girls constitute 51 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, with 97 per cent of reported survivors being female and 15 per cent of those survivors being minors. Among the reported GBV cases, intimate partner violence (both physical and emotional), sexual violence, denial of resources, and child marriage are the most prominent issues. Furthermore, instances of sexual violence during flight to South Sudan and the heightened risk of sexual exploitation and abuse due to the lack of humanitarian resources underscore the urgent need for specialised GBV prevention and response services, robust risk mitigation measures, and efficient referral mechanisms.

Available data shows that more than 53 per cent of new arrivals are children of school-going age who need early childhood development and education services, including primary and secondary education, and Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) opportunities. Primary education enrolment is relatively high in both Maban and Jamjang, with more than half of the children attending school. However, the rates significantly drop for secondary education, with only 21 per cent enrolled in Jamjang and around 8.7 per cent in Maban, suggesting challenges or barriers to continuing education beyond the primary level in these areas.

The UNHCR/WFP Joint Post Distribution Monitoring 2023[54] showed that 66 per cent of refugees in protracted conditions were either severely or moderately food insecure, and 85 per cent were extremely or highly vulnerable. These households lack the economic resources to cover the basic food and non-food needs, have poor food consumption, and engage in coping strategies to make ends meet, some of which further undermine households' resilience levels. The recent outbreak of violence in Sudan in April 2023 – South Sudan's primary import source – has already cut supply routes of food and non-food items and resulted in rocketing market prices of food and fuel. WFP has been providing food assistance to refugees living in camps. However, the resource constraint has reduced it to a 50 per cent ration of the standard at 2,100 kcal per person per day since April 2021.

Newly arrived refugees need help accessing livelihoods, with barriers such as continuous movement and limited land allocated by the authority to access cultivation. The market price in transit sites and refugee-hosting areas remains high compared to last year, with low purchasing power. The nutrition screening conducted at border points showed that 30 per cent of children under five among new arrivals were acutely malnourished, far surpassing the WHO emergency threshold of 15 per cent and the UNHCR standard in emergency settings of 10 per cent. Lack of food is one of the main drivers of this very high malnutrition rate. Partners have been providing food assistance to new arrivals. However, there still are various challenges: stock out of high-energy biscuits (HEB), fluctuation of food prices in Renk where cash for food is provided, only 50 per cent to 70 per cent of the standard ration (2100 kcal per person per day) is distributed due to a lack of resources, pipeline issues due to bad road network, a lack of space and fuel for cooking, etc.

Emergency health needs have increased substantially since the arrival of large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan since April 2023. The fleeing population, many of whom are women and children, are arriving with dire health needs. Trends from the integrated

[53] UNFPA South Sudan | South Sudan ranks second in GBV prevalence rate in East Africa – a new study indicates. 24 March 2023.
[54] WFP, UNHCR, Joint Targeting Hub. "UNHCR/WFP Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Profiling analysis to inform targeting and prioritization of assistance to refugees in South Sudan". January 2023.

disease surveillance during the second week of July recorded 49 per cent of people with acute respiratory infections, 25 per cent with acute watery diarrhoea, 17 per cent with malaria, 7 per cent with eye infections and 2 per cent with measles. These conditions are leading causes of morbidity among the arriving population. Also, measles cases have significantly increased in most locations due to low vaccination coverage in Sudan or other countries of origin and contributed to increased mortalities among children.

The nutrition situation among protracted refugees is poor and has deteriorated in 2023. According to the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS), the global acute malnutrition (GAM) level in the South Sudan refugee camps ranges from 4.1 per cent to 16.9 per cent among eight refugee camps in South Sudan[55] which has one camp over the emergency threshold of WHO standard (>15 per cent) and three camps over UNHCR standard (>10 per cent) in an emergency. The chronic malnutrition rate stands high among refugees, with four camps over 20 per cent (UNHCR target for emergency), and the prevalence of anaemia for children was 40 per cent, which indicates a chronic nutrition deficiency leading to bad health and development of children and poor performance in their life span. From January to October 2023, there were 10,916 children under five and 4,442 pregnant and lactating women and HIV/TB patients who were acutely malnourished admitted into the treatment program.

Since mid-April, over 28,000 newly arrived children under five were screened for malnutrition. Over 8,700 were found to be acutely malnourished – 5,647 moderate (MAM) and 3,129 severe (SAM). These figures represent a GAM rate of 30.7 per cent, which is far above the WHO critical level (>15 per cent) and UNHCR emergency level (10 per cent). Malnutrition among the new arrivals continues to rise sharply as the months pass, with a 60 per cent increase in enrolment of malnourished children between May and June 2023 alone.

Infrastructure challenges compound the difficulties in delivering timely humanitarian aid to remote areas where refugees are settled. Poor air and road networks, infrastructure, telecommunication networks, transportation limitations, and weather conditions and high risks of flooding hinder the efficient movement of supplies and people, adding to the challenge to reach those in need. This lack of accessibility not only impedes the provision of basic necessities like food, water, education and health care but also affects the ability to address emerging protection needs promptly. The cost of response in such conditions is significantly higher, requiring significant investments in road construction, repairs and maintenance, transportation of people and goods, flood mitigation measures, access to water and shelters. Numerous locations are not accessible by road during the rainy season, poor road conditions in many cases necessitate airlifting or transport by barge.

Critical funding constraints will impact the humanitarian response, especially in the emergency phase. Anticipated food ration cuts in 2024, which will be higher than ever before, threaten the well-being of refugees and host communities. Without a significant increase in livelihood support, the consequences extend beyond hunger, potentially leading to heightened protection risks, including GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse. Adequate funding is essential to ensure the basic needs and safety of refugees are met.

To address these risks and needs, measures such as regular dialogues between humanitarian teams of Sudan and South Sudan, cross-border consultations, and information-gathering are being implemented. Prioritizing Accountability to Affected People and contingency planning for increased arrivals are crucial. Engagement with regional actors like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union is imperative to find solutions to the conflict in Sudan and secure financial support for neighbouring countries like South Sudan.

[55] The GAM rate is from UNHCR Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) conducted in refugee camps. The latest data were available for Makpandu, Gorom, Ajoung Thok, and Pamir in 2023, for Doro in 2022, for Gendressa, Kaya, and Batil in 2021.

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy

Role of the Government

In South Sudan, the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) under the Ministry of Interior is responsible for managing and coordinating refugee and asylum matters. It takes the lead in preparedness and regulating the refugee reception mechanisms. The Government of South Sudan assumes a lead role in addressing the challenges of the refugee response within its borders. Recognizing the multifaceted nature of the issue, the government has formulated policies that define the legal status, protection, and integration of refugees. By taking the lead in creating an enabling legal environment, South Sudan ensures that refugees and asylum-seekers benefit from legal protection and access to services, aligning national policies with international standards.

In South Sudan, the line ministries which play a critical role in the response include, but are not limited to:

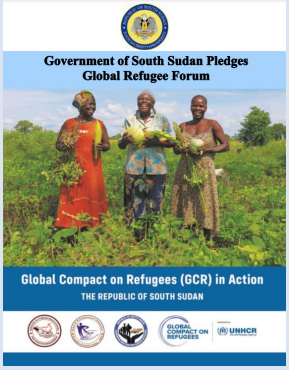
- National and State Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare;
- National and State Ministry of General Education and Instruction;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Health - County Health Department;
- Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management;
- Relief and Rehabilitation Commission;
- Commission for Refugee Affairs;
- Ministry of Interior.

The RRP supports the Government to take the lead and play a crucial role in the emergency response. In strategic partnership with international organizations, NGOs, and donors, the response plan will further support the government's engagement. By actively participating in coordinating and implementing assistance programmes, the government will receive additional support to mobilize resources and augment its capacity. This collaborative approach ensures a unified front in addressing the refugee crisis, emphasizing the importance of a collective effort in meeting the diverse needs of displaced populations.

South Sudan Global Compact on Refugees Pledges

In 2019, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan made five pledges towards the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to enhance services to refugees and host communities in the country and foster conditions for returns. Such commitments were made in the areas of education, jobs and livelihoods, environment, solutions, and statelessness. For the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the government completed a stocktaking exercise of its previous commitments, achievements and challenges and agreed upon the following in six pledges:

- Solutions and Peacebuilding
- Education
- Jobs and Livelihoods
- Climate / Environment
- Statelessness
- Protection capacity-Strengthening Asylum System and Documentation



See the complete overview of the South Sudan Global Refugee Forum 2023 Revised and New Pledges

Inter-Agency Response

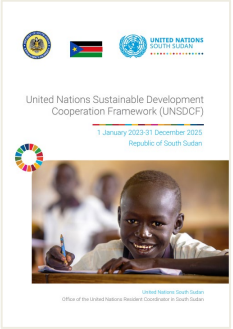
The RRP is designed to support and complement the leadership efforts of the South Sudanese Government in the response. By aligning with and bolstering national strategies and policies, the response plan amplifies the impact of government initiatives. It contributes resources, expertise, and coordination mechanisms to enhance the effectiveness of the overall response. The plan serves as a collaborative framework that recognizes the government's lead role, working in tandem to comprehensively address the challenges of displacement.

RRP partners will support the Government of South Sudan to ensure access to territory and asylum procedures for all individuals in need of international protection, especially those arriving from Sudan. The government will grant access to its territory and prima facie refugee status to all individuals arriving from Sudan, including refugees and asylum-seekers previously registered in Sudan. Border monitoring conducted jointly with authorities and partners will be carried out to monitor and predict new arrival trends, identifying the most vulnerable individuals to be prioritized in the humanitarian response.

With the arrivals from Sudan at an increased rate (an average of 1,836 daily as of 31 December 2023), partners will maintain transit and reception centres in border areas and refugee-hosting locations that receive new arrivals. These centres shall facilitate the rapid provision of protection and life-saving assistance addressing the urgent needs of refugees, ensuring their basic survival and well-being during the initial stages of displacement. Refugees and asylum-seekers will be relocated from transit centres to established camps or settlements designated by the government enabling refugees in need of assistance to access long-term protection, shelter, education, health care, and livelihood opportunities.

RRP partners will also aim to implement a comprehensive refugee response that extends beyond immediate relief efforts. The goal is to empower refugees and asylum-seekers with the skills, resources, and opportunities necessary for their long-term well-being and integration into the host society. This involves supporting the government in facilitating a conducive legal environment and inclusive policies and providing refugees with access to education, vocational training, and other tools that enhance their abilities to contribute meaningfully to their communities. Refugees possess untapped potential and investing in their skills and capacities is key to fostering self-reliance and resilience. RRP partners will seek to lay the groundwork for sustained growth and progress. This will involve initiatives that align with broader development goals, such as infrastructure projects, economic empowerment programmes, and community-building activities. By addressing refugee and host community needs and aspirations, partners aim to mitigate potential sources of tension and conflict and foster an atmosphere conducive to peace and security.

Additionally, the RRP aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-25 and the latest National Development Strategy (NDS), originally launched in 2018 as a requirement of the first Agreement for Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan signed in 2015.



Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Support South Sudan authorities to ensure access to territory and asylum for all individuals in need of international protection, in compliance with principles and standards, including the principle of non-refoulement and the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum.

SO2: Support South Sudan authorities to provide timely and life-saving protection services and humanitarian assistance for all refugees and asylum-seekers, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable and most at risk.

SO3: Support South Sudan to build the capacity and resilience of refugees and asylum-seekers, supporting long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, and the attainment of human rights.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

The Government of South Sudan will be encouraged to maintain access to its territory for all individuals arriving from Sudan. In response to the influx, the South Sudanese authorities will continue to grant prima facie refugee status recognition to all Sudanese nationals seeking asylum and to refugees and asylum-seekers previously registered in Sudan. The government will be responsible for maintaining the civilian character of asylum through screening and identifying possible combatants who will be separated and transferred to different facilities for further processing.

The South Sudanese authorities have identified key border crossing points along the Sudan-South Sudan border, where the government and partners are tracking population movements and conducting protection vulnerability profiling, nutrition, and health screening. Arrival data and basic demographic and nationality information are available on the UNHCR-IOM joint population dashboard. Refugees and asylum-seekers who arrive at the border are assisted, counselled and supported to reach existing refugee camps/settlements.

People with specific needs, such as unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, female-headed households and single women without any other support, older people, and GBV survivors will receive immediate assistance, including psychological first aid and clinical management of rape. They will be referred to receive targeted services such as GBV case management and family tracing for unaccompanied and separated children at transit locations or final destinations. Counselling and protection services will be available, and referral pathways for specialized case management and other protection services will be further strengthened, considering the journey of the new arrivals from the border entry point to final destinations.

The referral mechanisms aim to provide protection interventions and services for all new arrivals and should facilitate their integration into the existing protection/development programming at final destinations. Two-way communication on key protection messages, such as emergency protection services and family unity, is particularly relevant for people on the move, and the referral mechanism will be strengthened.

Through regular protection monitoring, safety audits, and assessments, the needs and concerns of women, men, girls, and boys in transit locations and final destinations will be identified. Trends will be analysed to enable partners to respond to evolving needs promptly and formulate risk mitigation strategies and advocacy interventions with authorities and other stakeholders, including donors.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

As of the end of December 2023, children comprised 60 per cent of the total refugee and asylum-seeker population in South Sudan.

The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare is primarily responsible for coordinating child protection programmes in the country. Child protection actors have continued to scale up the child protection response progressively to meet the growing needs.

In 2024, the child protection programmes will focus on:

1. Strengthening child protection services for children at risk, including identification and Best Interests Procedure for children at risk, family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children.
2. Strengthening inclusive child protection systems where refugee and asylum-seeker children at risk are identified and referred to multisectoral services.
3. Supporting children, families, and communities to protect children to ensure that children, families and communities can prevent and address child protection risks.
4. Mainstreaming child protection into other sectors, particularly education, public health, shelter/settlements and housing, livelihoods and economic inclusion and basic needs.
5. Strengthening child participation and child-friendly communication and accountability is crucial in preventing harm to children.
6. Strengthening child resilience building to enhance positive coping and well-being through provision of psychosocial support services and linkages to required mental health services.

The child protection sub-sector will collaborate with the GBV, protection and other sectors to ensure that the child protection programme is part of an integrated protection response.

Sub-sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV)

In 2024, the GBV sector will focus on six key areas:

1. Strengthening specialized survivor centred GBV services and referrals, including case management, psychological support services, and health services including clinical management of rape in collaboration with the protection, child protection, and health sectors, both in transit centres and camps and settlements and regular documentation of GBV services in each location, using the information management system.
2. Implementing specialized GBV prevention programmes such as SASA!, Girl Shine, and Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) to empower women and girls and raise community awareness involving men and boys, targeting intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and early marriage.
3. Supporting non-GBV sectors in identifying GBV risks through joint safety audits, GBV risk mitigation training, GBV including on safe disclosure and referral and collaborative monitoring.
4. In collaboration with the livelihood and economic inclusion and education sectors, strengthening the resilience of at-risk women and girls through safe livelihood opportunities and continuous education in coordination with the livelihood and education sectors.
5. Enhancing GBV coordination through establishing GBV sub-working groups in areas where gaps are identified.
6. Building the capacity of relevant line ministries, government authorities and refugee women-led organizations, supporting localization.
7. Providing ethical and safe GBV data collection, management, and analysis by expanding the use of GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS+) among GBV partners through training and monitoring.

GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response services will be inclusive, responding to the needs of women at risk, women and girls with disabilities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and other (LGBTIQA+) individuals. To facilitate cohesive action within the GBV sector, inter-agency GBV standard operating procedures will be introduced, and regular monitoring will be conducted encompassing GBV case management, referral mechanisms, GBV services information sharing, the programmes conducted at women and girls safe spaces such as specialized GBV prevention initiatives and risk mitigation endeavours.

Education

Given the large number of children of school age, the education response will focus on ensuring continuity of learning for all children and supporting refugee inclusion, bearing in mind that the education system in South Sudan faces several challenges, including one of the world's highest proportions of out-of-school children (with about 3 in 5 children outside of the classroom and girls representing the largest group of out-of-school children), lack of teachers (one teacher employed for every 77 students), poor qualification and irregular payment of teachers, and inadequate school infrastructure. Female learners remain under-represented (particularly at post-primary level) for a variety of reasons including child marriage and pregnancy, poverty affecting the ability of families to meet school requirements for their children, and socio-cultural barriers.

Education services will be offered in two main settings. The first will target refugee and asylum-seeker children in refugee camps. It will include a comprehensive whole-school package to establish learning spaces, revitalize existing ones, and build and strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy skills, social-emotional learning and education pathways through formal and non-formal education benefiting both refugee and host community children and youth. The second will target children on the move in child-friendly spaces in transit centres, where the focus will be on strengthening learning through play and recreation in close collaboration with child protection partners. Families will be provided with information on learning facilities at their destination to facilitate the speedy enrolment of learners and avoid further learning loss.

South Sudan Global Refugee Forum 2023 Pledge on Education

The Government of South Sudan pledged to increase access to inclusive quality education for refugees and host communities, enhance access to tertiary education, and reduce the out-of-school children rate by 2027 through:

a. Improving 300 schools' infrastructure (construction or rehabilitation);

b. Training 1,400 teachers in refugee-hosting areas, leading to certification and promoting the psychosocial well-being of students and teachers;

c. Strengthening the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to include refugee data in the national system;

d. Ensuring enrolment of 700 refugee students in national universities including through scholarships and/or subsidized fees;

e. Increasing access to digital learning through technological access to refugees and host communities; and

f. Improving the availability of educational materials including printing and dissemination of education materials and textbooks to all schools.

Food Security

With the strategic direction shifting from unconditional assistance to a needs-based and self-reliance approach, UNHCR and WFP conducted a joint assessment (JPDM, 2023) to design and inform the needs-based approach for assistance. Due to funding constraints projected for 2024, the approach cannot be implemented entirely by providing tailored assistance based on needs. Instead, the most vulnerable refugees will be prioritized for life-saving aid. Key priorities are:

- Providing general food distribution (in-kind or cash as feasible) to registered refugees in camps or settlements to meet their food needs through a prioritization approach, based on geographic location, season, and vulnerability level.
- Engaging development and livelihood partners to provide more livelihood opportunities, especially in agriculture, to fill the gap in food needs and build self-reliance.
- Promoting food security information-sharing and analysis that allows the implementation of evidence-based programming. This will be conducted through food basket monitoring, post-distribution monitoring, and joint assessment missions.
- Ensuring the availability of a food security contingency planning, emergency preparedness, and response plans where necessary.

In 2024, it is vital to continue provision of food assistance to new arrivals throughout their movement from the border to final destinations and build resilience for them to transition post-emergency. Activities prioritized for refugee new arrivals are:

- Upon their arrival at point of entry, providing high-energy biscuits (HEB) or other types of ready-to-eat food to support the resilience from the journey and for onward movement.
- Distributing food assistance (either in-kind or cash as deemed feasible[56]) to new arrivals residing in transit sites, covering onward movement to the destinated refugee camps or settlements.
- Providing general food distribution (in-kind or cash as deemed feasible) to registered refugees in camps or settlements to meet their food needs. It will start with a blanket modality, and with continuous monitoring and further evaluation, will transition to a needs-based targeting and prioritization approach, coupled with strengthening livelihood opportunities to build resilience.

[56] The modality of in-kind or cash will be provided as is deemed feasible, with thorough market assessment, continuous monitoring of markets, and adjustment of transfer values accordingly.

Public Health & Nutrition

The priority will be to provide life-saving primary health services including referral for immediate responses at reception and in transit locations as well as in refugee camps. Essential health care services and management of non-communicable diseases will be provided through static or mobile services. Immunization of children at border crossing points and in transit locations will be provided to limit the risk of infectious disease outbreaks. Rapid response teams will be deployed where necessary to provide reactive and proactive immunization campaigns. Water quality testing in transit locations will be regularly carried out to limit the incidence and spread of water-borne diseases. Maternal and reproductive health care and clinical management of rape services will be provided in coordination with partners, the GBV sector, and public health facilities. MHPSS support and appropriate medication will be provided to those in need.

The capacity of partners to undertake disease surveillance and response will be strengthened with improved health screening at border crossing points, capacity-building of health partner staff, and measures put in place for outbreak preparedness. Referral systems will be supported in arrival and final destinations for patients to receive continued care in areas of return, including, where necessary, arranging for medical evacuations for patients with chronic conditions needing specialized treatment. Essential health screening will be undertaken for people registering for transport assistance to ensure a safe journey and limit risks during onward movement. Also, procurement of essential medications and supplies for public health facilities and health partners is a critical priority in providing emergency care to people arriving.

Partners will provide life-saving nutrition services in all refugee camps. Both curative and preventative activities must be maintained and strengthened to improve nutrition. The nutrition response will focus on preventing and treating malnutrition through an integrated set of food and non-food interventions. The response aligns with the national system and focuses on strengthening the local capacity of refugees and host communities, especially that of the community, to ensure sustainability and resilience after the emergency. The prioritized activities for new arrivals and protracted refugees are:

Treatment

- Nutrition screening at the border and in transit sites is conducted to identify acutely malnourished children under five and pregnant and lactating women.
- Those making their way to the transit centres are enrolled in nutrition services provided at the transit centre or through mobile outreach.
- Children with acute malnutrition and medical complications are referred to specialized inpatient care services in stabilization centres and provided with transportation assistance to facilitate access to critical care.
- Nutrition services are strengthened and expanded in refugee camps to support the additional caseload due to the influx, including pre-positioning supplies and hiring additional staff in line with the sector response in those locations.
- Mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screenings take place quarterly for children under five and pregnant and lactating women during a prevention programme with supplementary food, and mothers or caregivers are trained to do family MUAC screenings in refugee settlements covering both new arrivals and existing refugees to ensure surveillance and identify malnourished cases.
- Treatment is ensured for micronutrient deficiency (especially anaemia) and implementation of a context-specific micronutrient (anaemia) reduction strategy for South Sudan.

Prevention

- All children under five are provided with lipid-based emergency nutrition supplements upon arrival at the border point as immediate nutrition support.
- In transit centres, all pregnant and lactating women and children under five who are not malnourished are enrolled in the prevention programme with supplementary food. All children under two years of age leaving the transit centre are provided one week's worth of supplementary food. In refugee settlements, this programme targets children under two years and pregnant and lactating women.
- Maternal, infant, and young child nutrition screening and counselling are provided in transit centres to mothers and caregivers of children to prevent malnutrition by adopting good health, nutrition, and hygiene practices.
- Malnutrition treatment programs and maternal, infant, and young child nutrition are coupled with kitchen gardening demonstrations in refugee settlements to improve the dietary diversity of the most vulnerable groups.
- Vitamin A and deworming services are delivered to children aged 6-59 months and 12-59 months, respectively.
- Free lunch is provided in primary schools in refugee camps to fill the food gaps for pupils and improve school-aged students' attendance and performance outcomes.
- Nutrition partners use existing platforms to engage communities, especially caregivers and influencers, to prevent and control malnutrition by delivering integrated key life-saving practices through interpersonal engagement, community

stakeholder sensitization, radio messaging, and dissemination of nutrition key messages through information education and communication materials.

- Community-based volunteers such as community nutrition volunteers, community mobilizers, boma (village) health workers and hygiene promoters are equipped to ensure strengthened and harmonized community feedback mechanisms, message dissemination and referrals.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion (LEI)

The Government of South Sudan has pledged to expand economic opportunities and equitable economic development in refugee-hosting areas through refugee-friendly policies and empowerment/social protection schemes by 2027 and to enable access to sustainable and green energy solutions for refugees and host communities and strengthen the climate resilience of refugees, host communities, and other displaced people. The livelihoods and economic inclusion sector aims to ensure that most forcibly displaced, both women and men, gain access to sustainable livelihoods to achieve greater self-reliance and gender equality.

The sector focuses on four priority areas as key transition pathways for gainful wage-earning employment including access to market-driven skills, land and productive assets, finance and enhanced resilience to climate shocks. Implementation of livelihoods activities strongly relies on partnerships and collaboration with the government and development actors to facilitate access to key production assets, safety nets, and services such as land, the right to work and finance.

In line with the National Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan, the sector will promote post-harvest handling, value addition, irrigation and water harvesting technologies and enhance access to farm inputs and climate-smart technologies including insect farming. Partners will advocate and facilitate access to farmland, address low production and productivity through improved climate-resilient production technologies.

The livelihoods and economic inclusion sector will strengthen vocational skills and capacity-building efforts to effectively bridge the gap between secondary and post-secondary skills opportunities to prepare refugees for gainful wage-earning employment. Sector partners will consider promoting market-driven skills in agriculture, industry, education, handicrafts, commerce, and private sector engagement to advance apprenticeships and job placement schemes, considering the different interests and needs of women, men, and those with disabilities.

The sector will promote graduation programmes focused on business development including revolving grants, mentorship, financial training and linkages to Village Savings and Loans schemes as a pathway to build resilience and facilitate inclusion to social protection schemes. Sector partners will promote climate-smart technologies, clean energy, tree growing, and encourage sustainable use of land and forest products while strengthening measures to mitigate, adapt and enhance resilience to climate shocks.

Settlement & Shelter/Housing

Partners have formulated a strategy for shelter and infrastructure development in response to the influx of refugees from South Sudan. The focus is on upgrading or rehabilitating existing transit and reception centres in arrival areas for those in transit and ensuring the provision of emergency shelter for new arrivals to refugee camps and settlements. Shelter maintenance and repairs will continue for those that are damaged.

Where these facilities no longer meet the emergency standards, new sites, such as Renk transit centre and Wedwil refugee settlement, have been established in coordination with authorities and partners. Should the dynamics of displacement change, and more arrivals enter via other border crossing points, this would require an increase in the transit shelter capacity in those locations (e.g., Abyei, Panakuach and others).

In refugee camps and settlements, efforts will be made to construct emergency or temporary shelters immediately for dignified, gender-sensitive and accessible accommodation, which can be upgraded over time when conditions allow.

Should the capacity of the existing refugee camps and settlements be exceeded by the number of new arrivals, UNHCR and partners, jointly with the government leadership and Ministry of Land, Housing, Public Utilities, and Infrastructure will select suitable land for new sites considering factors such as road connectivity, access, and suitability for essential social services and infrastructure. The standard guidelines for developing transit centres and settlements, covering site plans, shelter house layouts, service areas and solid waste management will be followed.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

RRP partners will provide life-saving WASH services at points of entry and in transit locations for displaced people to access daily survival requirements, enabling health and well-being and to prevent WASH-related diseases. The response will provide at least 15 litres of safe drinking water per person per day by trucking/treating water, or by constructing or extending existing water networks. Where possible, water points will be rehabilitated or repaired for adequate provision of water to people in transit. Water trucking will be used and/or continued as a last resort. WASH partners will construct additional water storage and distribution points as required to ensure equitable access, supply and short wait times in the sites.

Safe, dignified, and gender-appropriate sanitation interventions will be expanded and improved across the transit and reception sites. This includes the construction of emergency and/or rehabilitation of permanent latrines and bathing shelters, and construction of emergency septic tanks. Desludging will be increased for adequate faecal sludge management. Partners will ensure the maintenance of latrines and bathing shelters, including repairs, refilling of hand-washing facilities, and establishment of mechanisms for regular cleaning to ensure hygienic and safe sanitation conditions.

WASH partners will distribute consumable WASH supplies at transit sites such as soap, and menstrual management hygiene (dignity) kits for women and girls of menstruating age. The distribution of the kits will be done in conjunction with risk communication and hygiene promotion messaging. In the host communities, risk communication and community engagement actors, and WASH partners, will scale up promotion of positive behavioural practices through trained community mobilizers, and hygiene promoters who will conduct house-to-house awareness sessions, and message-sharing through megaphone announcement and face-to-face interactions, educating households on cholera prevention and control. Additionally, other communication and community engagement such as radio messaging, information displays, education and communication materials, sensitization, and engagement of community leaders/influencers to advocate for WASH interventions among refugee, migrant and host communities will be carried out.

In refugee camps and host communities, WASH partners in coordination with camp management will review site plans and ensure that appropriate and safe WASH facilities are installed. This includes construction, installation, repair or rehabilitation of sufficient water points and networks to ensure sufficient access to safe water and to ease the stress on the existing water facilities due to the increased population. Sanitation interventions will target temporary latrines for new arrivals, with transit to household latrines and support for bathing shelters. Risk communication and hygiene promotion engagement will also be similarly delivered in refugee camps and host communities to ensure safe hygienic practices and appropriate use of WASH facilities.

Basic Needs

At the national and sub-national levels, the cash response will be meticulously coordinated in line with the new cash coordination model, fostering synergies among various stakeholders. Linkages are established with ongoing cash assistance programmes to ensure a cohesive and efficient overall strategy. This coordination is crucial in comprehensively meeting basic and other evolving needs of affected populations.

The integration of unrestricted multipurpose cash assistance with sectoral responses is a key aspect of the strategy. By aligning with other sectors, the response aims to provide a holistic solution. Special attention is given to specific vulnerable groups through the Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach, ensuring that the unique needs of these groups are adequately addressed. The targeting approach is elaborated upon where relevant, enhancing the precision of assistance delivery.

In the spirit of fostering resilience, the response plan incorporates activities that go beyond immediate life-saving measures. These resilience-oriented activities are integrated into the overall strategy, with a keen focus on building capacities and coping mechanisms. The plan also highlights linkages with government social protection schemes, emphasizing a collaborative approach to bolstering resilience within the affected communities.
The overarching goal is to go beyond meeting immediate needs and empower individuals and communities to withstand future shocks, creating a sustainable and resilient foundation for recovery and development.

Logistics, Supply & Telecommunications

As a result of the limited transport infrastructure in South Sudan, which is heavily affected by the rainy season, providing timely assistance, delivery of goods, services and personnel in areas of operation is challenging and extremely costly. There is a limited road network, riverine movements are long, and routes are often insecure. Only a few airports have tarmac runways limiting the cargo that can be transported at any given time. Well-planned logistics arrangements are needed for supply chains to stay uninterrupted, enabling a continuity of humanitarian operations. In remote locations, efforts will be made to provide common office spaces for partners and telecommunications connectivity.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
  - Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion
  - Sub-Section: Youth
  - Sub- Section: Older People
- Accountability to Affected People (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Climate Action
- Cash Assistance

Read more in the Regional Overview pp. 16 -17

Humanitarian–Development–Peace Nexus

The RRP for South Sudan hinges on the interconnected pillars of humanitarian assistance, development, and peacebuilding, recognizing their synergy in achieving sustainable solutions for displaced populations. Humanitarian efforts address immediate needs, ensuring refugees have access to protection, shelter, food, sanitation, education and health care. Concurrently, development interventions lay the groundwork for resilience and self-sufficiency, offering educational opportunities, vocational training, and livelihood support to empower refugees in rebuilding their lives. Wherever possible, interventions to address the humanitarian needs of those impacted by the emergency response will ensure a development-centred approach to ensure long-term, sustainable and resilient solutions.
Central to this plan is the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, which seeks to address the root causes of displacement and foster regional stability. With the conflict in Sudan entering its eighth month and no tangible prospects of peace at the moment, return is not an option.

The peace element is particularly attuned to the potential for tensions between refugee groups, especially with the arrival of new populations. Specific measures are implemented to prevent conflicts and promote harmonious coexistence. Community dialogue forums and conflict resolution training are integral components to mitigate potential sources of tension and build understanding among diverse refugee communities.

Moreover, the plan strongly emphasizes equitable resource distribution and inclusive practices to reduce competition and foster collaboration among refugees and host communities. This approach ensures that refugees coexist peacefully, respecting cultural and ethnic diversity. Community-led conflict prevention mechanisms are established to address grievances promptly and constructively. By proactively managing potential conflicts between various refugee groups, the peace element contributes to a cohesive and stable environment, supporting the well-being of all displaced individuals and fostering long-term regional stability.

Partnership and Coordination

In South Sudan, the response to the Sudan crisis for both refugees and returnees is comprised of three phases. The first phase covers reception for both refugees and returnees at border areas, transit centres and transportation. The second phase is the immediate intervention in refugee settlements and camps, and in areas of return. The third phase aims to support resilience, integration, and pathways to solutions through a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach.

The needs of refugees are covered under the 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) using the Refugee Coordination Model. For returnees, needs are addressed through the 2024 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) through a cluster-based approach.

With refugees and returnees arriving together at border areas during phase one, an inter-agency forum has been established to address concerns and take joint decisions to solve coordination and operational issues and works closely with the HCT and OCHA.

The refugee response in South Sudan aligns with the framework of the Refugee Coordination Model, led by the CRA and UNHCR. At the national level, the Refugee Coordination Meeting provides an inclusive platform for partners to engage in strategic discussions, fostering collaboration and information exchange. Additionally, sectoral coordination mechanisms facilitate technical-level discussions, promoting a comprehensive approach to addressing the multifaceted needs of refugees and asylum-seekers while maintaining active engagement with government counterparts. The coordination mechanisms will be further strengthened in 2024 considering the increased arrivals from Sudan and the need to ensure a coordinated and cohesive humanitarian response. Regular coordination takes place with partners and authorities at the camp level.

South Sudan National Durable Solutions Strategy

In October 2023, the South Sudan Commissioner of Refugees (CRA) and South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) presented the National Durable Solutions Strategy and Action Plan for Refugees, Returnees, Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities to the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) where it was approved. This Strategy builds on the 2019 National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons and the South Sudan Action Plan for Return, Reintegration and Recovery. The strategy development was based on state-level assessments and consultations which also involved representatives of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities. The strategy guides the Government and stakeholders to tackle the challenges confronting displaced people as they return to their places of origin; and is anchored on and guided by Chapter 3 of the 2018 Peace Agreement on Humanitarian Assistance and Reconstruction which focuses on the ability of refugees and IDPs to exercise their right to return to their places of origin or to live in areas of their choice in safety and dignity. The strategy is guided by the following key principles and approaches: development-oriented and area-based approaches; right-based approaches; primary national responsibility; and the participation of refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities. It calls on the Government and stakeholders to commit to supporting the creation of an enabling environment for returns.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

42 Partners involved	UN Agencies 7	International NGOs 21	National NGOs 14
	$308,132,924	$54,844,305	$9,975,325
		FBOs 2	FBOs 1
		$5,513,000	$642,000

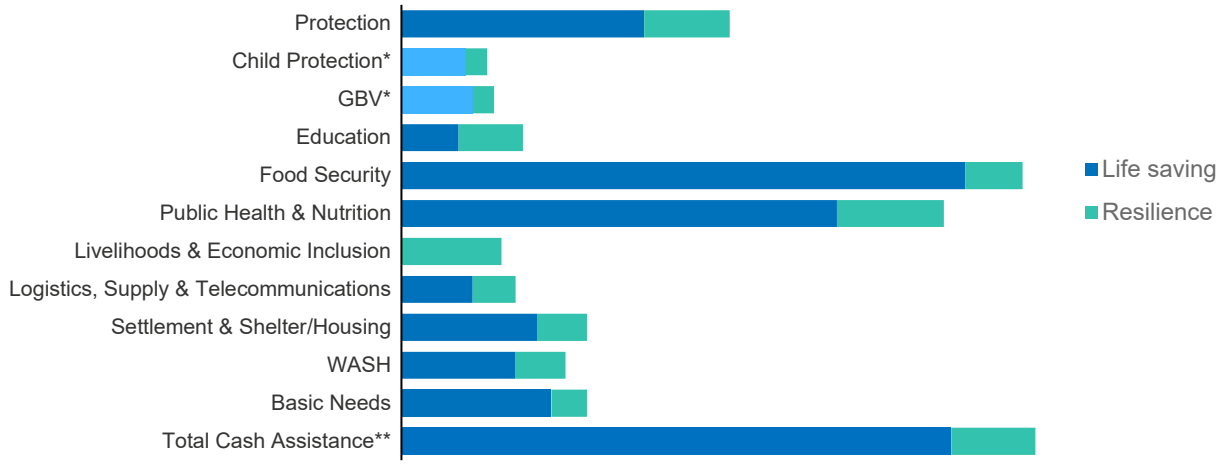
Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP. Many other national and local actors, including grassroots organizations collaborate with RRP partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	***Life Saving***	***Resilience/Systems Strengthening***	***Total in USD***
Protection	$43,323,330	$16,466,442	$59,789,772
➢ *of which is Child Protection*	$10,574,824	$4,142,230	$14,717,054
➢ *of which is GBV*	$11,678,363	$2,885,418	$14,563,781
Education	$7,682,952	$9,030,828	$16,713,780
Food Security	$79,060,491	$7,750,000	$86,810,491
Public Health and Nutrition	$65,889,710	$16,920,036	$82,809,746
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	$2,200,000	$14,253,454	$16,253,454
Logistics, Supply and Telecommunications	$12,962,195	$9,140,844	$22,103,039
Settlement and Shelter/ Housing	$22,624,788	$8,729,988	$31,354,776
WASH	$17,568,243	$7,724,402	$25,292,645
Basic Needs	$26,754,360	$4,870,491	$25,624,851
Total	**$278,066,069**	**$94,886,485**	**$372,952,554**

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget*

*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acroynm /Short Title	Type	Requirements in USD
National NGO			**9,975,325**
Africa Development Aid	ADA	NNGO	1,450,000
Agency for Child Relief Aid	ACRA	NNGO	200,000
Community Organization for Development and Empowerment	CODE	NNGO	400,000
Dialogue and Research Institute	DRI	NNGO	750,000
Doctors Actively Serving in Africa	DASA	NNGO	420,525
Episcopal Development Aid	EDA	NNGO/ FBO	642,000
Food & Agriculture Development Agency	FADA	NNGO	500,000
Greater Upper Nile Organization	GUNO	NNGO	200,000
Hope Restoration South Sudan	HRSS	NNGO	1,200,000
I Win SSD	I-WIN-SSD	NNGO	75,000
Integrated Humanitarian Aid	IHA	NNGO	2,350,000
Peace and Education Development Programme	SPEDP	NNGO	493,000
Survivor Aid	SURVIVOR- AID	NNGO	970,000
United Networks for Health	UNH	NNGO	324,800
International NGO			**54,844,305**
ACROSS	ACROSS	INGO	105,240
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	ADRA	INGO/FBO	700,000

African Community Agency for Development and Relief	AFRICAN-CDR	INGO	25,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	ACTED	INGO	1,750,000
Danish Refugee Council	DRC	INGO	975,000
Food Against Hunger	FAH	INGO	1,771,000
For Afrika	ForAfrika	INGO	1,349,335
GOAL	GOAL	INGO	1,761,374
Humanitarian and Development Consortium	HDC	INGO	410,000
Humanity & Inclusion	HI	INGO	2,900,000
INKOMOKO	INKOMOKO	INGO	2,000,000
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO	8,912,732
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	INGO/FBO	4,813,000
Medair	MEDAIR	INGO	6,750,000
Medicair	MEDICAIR	INGO	534,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO	3,700,000
OXFAM International	OXFAM	INGO	3,050,000
Plan International	PI	INGO	847,624
Relief International	RI	INGO	10,000,000
Save the Children International	SCI	INGO	1,515,000
Solidarites International	SI	INGO	975,000
United Nations			**308,132,924**
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	UN	11,300,000
International Organization for Migration	IOM	UN	274,100
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	UN	17,146,532
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	191,306,479
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	UN	3,318,780
World Food Programme	WFP	UN	84,387,033
World Health Organization	WHO	UN	400,000
Total USD			**372,952,554**

Uganda
Country Chapter

Sudanese refugees wait to be registered at the Kiryadongo reception centre in Uganda.

AT A GLANCE

Uganda Planned Response

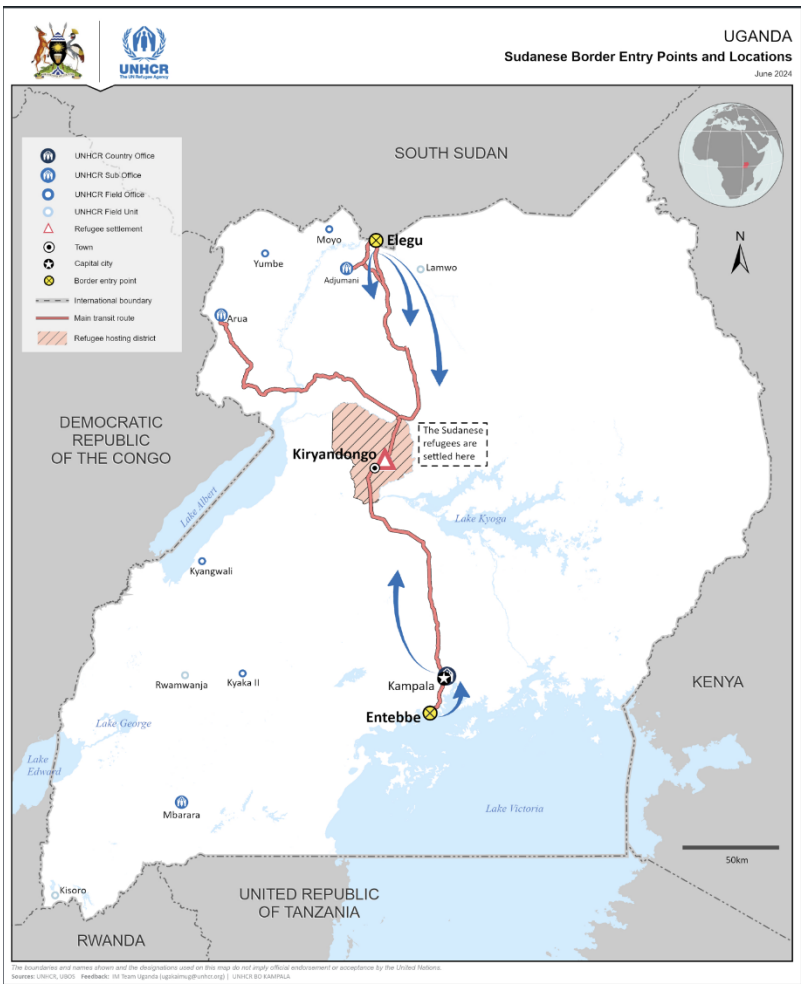
July-December 2024

55 K
Refugees

107 K
Host Community

USD
50.9 M
Total Financial requirements

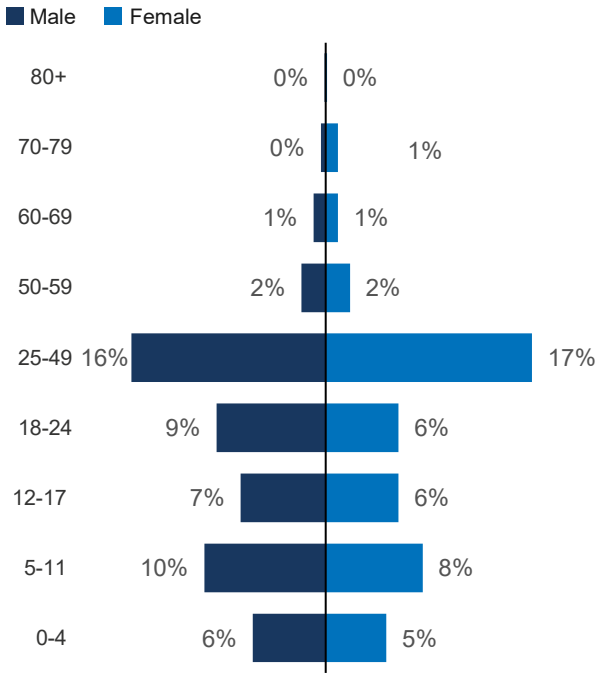
9
RRP Partners



Population Planning Figures

Country	Sudanese refugees pre-15 April 2023	New Arrivals April to December 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Refugee Population	3,431	11,779	55,000
Host Community			107,200
Total projected population in need			**162,200**

Age and gender breakdown



16%
People with disabilities

48%
Women and girls

52%
Men and boys

43%
Children

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Following the conflict that erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on 15 April 2023, Sudan is being confronted with one of the fastest unfolding crises globally, with unprecedented needs emerging in such a short period. Despite peace efforts (Jeddah Declaration of May 2023 and renewed efforts in Djibouti in October 2023), the security situation in Sudan remains fluid with armed conflict extending to central and east of Sudan in December 2023 resulting in further internal displacement and outward movements to neighbouring countries such as South Sudan. As of early June 2024, 144,859 Sudanese[57] had fled to South Sudan with a possibility of onward movements to Uganda.

Uganda is a key destination for Sudanese seeking refuge from the year-long conflict in Sudan, with 37,843 Sudanese refugees already in the country, including 22,633 who have crossed into Uganda since the start of the year. Based on current arrival trends, refugees from Sudan could hit the 55,000 marks by the end of the year. Refugees from Sudan now constitute 40 per cent of the total new arrivals in Uganda in 2024. The Government of Uganda has designated Kiryadongo refugee settlement as the reception and registration point for Sudanese refugees, including being provided with a plot of land if required. This change was effective as of 9 January 2024 and is in line with the government's position for all refugees under prima facie consideration. While this is a positive trend towards increasing access to asylum, there is an urgent need to boost the capacity of the government and partners to respond to the needs of the newly arriving refugees as the influx is expected to continue.

Country Risks and Needs

Uganda continues to be Africa's largest refugee-hosting country with 1,615,162 refugees and asylum-seekers from 33 countries as of 31 December 2023. Uganda has one of the most favourable protection environments for refugees and asylum-seekers, resting on a no-encampment approach to protection and assistance. The progressive Uganda Refugee Act (2006) and Refugee Regulations (2010) allow refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, to own business and property as well as access to primary and secondary education, health care and other basic social services.

As of June 2024, 37,843 Sudanese were registered in Uganda with over 34,000 arriving between April 2023 and June 2024. Approximately 63 per cent of the Sudanese refugees are registered in Kiryadongo, 24 per cent in Kampala and the rest (comprising mostly those who entered Uganda before 15 April 2023) are registered in other settlements in the North. Refugees who settle in Kiryadongo benefit from some humanitarian assistance including food, education, health care and emergency shelter items while those who settle in Kampala are regarded as self-reliant. Most Sudanese who settle in Kampala have some resources or family connections to support with basic needs. However, these resources can be depleted leaving them the option to Kiryadongo or the risk of harmful coping mechanisms considering life in Kampala is expensive. Nearly 50 per cent of the refugees are women and girls and 71 per cent are women and children. 54 per cent of the refugees are between 18 and 59 years old, the majority of whom are single-headed households. This constitutes the most productive age bracket. As such, access to decent and safe employment opportunities remains their biggest need.. The average household size for the Sudanese population in Uganda is 2.5 which is lower than the average household size for the South Sudanese and the Congolese refugees.

Currently, food assistance (both in-kind and through cash assistance) by the World Food Program (WFP) remains the main source of food for Sudanese households in Kiryadongo. The 2023 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) projected that from February to June 2024, the food security situation in refugee-hosting districts will gradually deteriorate as communities regress from consumption of 2023 second season harvest stocks to the lean / hunger period of April to June 2024. The number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) and requiring food assistance and livelihood improvement interventions was predicted to increase from 20 per cent to 23 per cent. At least 2 per cent of the population was anticipated to be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the projection period. Two in three households had high levels of inadequate food consumption in 2023 and April 2024. Many households in all categories cannot meet their essential needs and adopt extreme livelihood coping strategies, depleting their limited assets to meet their food needs.

The capacity of primary healthcare institutions in Uganda is overstretched. The leading causes of death are malaria, maternal and perinatal morbidity, and respiratory tract infections. Lack of medicine, long waiting times, and failure to get referrals are among the main obstacles for refugees to access healthcare. For HIV/AIDS, poor knowledge and awareness, stigma, inadequate support

[57] Situation Sudan situation (unhcr.org)

and low uptake of preventative and treatment services hinder interventions. In terms of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), on average, there has been a reduction in the level of services. This is attributed to the increased number of new arrivals without a match in infrastructure development. The per capita water consumption rate stands at 17 litres per person per day with some pockets of the settlement especially where new arrivals are settled receiving as low as 11 litres per person per day), which is below the sphere standard of 20 lppd.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a prevalent risk among refugee and host communities, demanding special attention from RRP partners. In 2023, 75 per cent of the reported incidents were perpetrated by intimate partners. Some reported contributing factors were reduced assistance, limited economic empowerment and harmful social norms. The prevalent incidents are psychosocial abuse, denial of resources, physical abuse, and rape. Services that include mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and medical follow-up are overstretched, thus affecting the quality of the response. There is a shortage of GBV caseworkers, and most collection points and transit centres do not have dedicated GBV caseworkers. Across the settlements, survivor-to-caseworker ratios go as high as 1:75 well above the standard of 1:20.

Protection risks are prevalent among the population in both Kampala and Kiryadongo. This has increased mental health needs, while current interventions such as community case identification, psychoeducation, therapy and individual counselling, treatment of mild/moderate cases and referral for advance care for severe cases do address mental health concerns. Challenges related to inadequate human resources for specialized services, the capacity gap for existing community structures, to correctly identify, counsel and refer cases limit the ability of partners.

Part 2: Country Response, Resilience and Solutions Strategy

Role of the Government

The Department of Refugees at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) has been leading the management and coordination of the Sudan response in Uganda. At the national level, coordination focuses on strategic policy issues and leadership while at the sub-national level, the focus is on the implementation of relevant policies. At the national level, UNHCR under the leadership of the Representative coordinates with the OPM, the Ministries of Education and Sports, Health, Water and Environment, Lands Housing and Urban Development and Gender, Labour, and Social Development, and Development, and the National Planning Authority and Uganda Bureau of Statistics on thematic issues relevant to those ministries, departments and agencies. At the sub-national level, the coordination under the leadership of Heads of Sub-Offices, Refugee Desk Officers (OPM), and the Chief Administrative Officers (DLG) focus on policy implementation and monitoring.

Inter-Agency Response

The Uganda chapter of the Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan promotes the strategic priorities identified by the Government of Uganda and its partners, with interventions aligned to national policies and strategies. It aligns with the spirit and structure of the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP), the urban strategy especially for refugees who settle in Kampala, the 2023 Global Refugee Forum government pledges and the government's Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA).

The multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society refugee response is coordinated under the leadership of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group, which is the main policy and decision-making body for the implementation of the CRRF. The Steering Group is co-led by the OPM and the Ministry of Local Government in a national arrangement to fulfil commitments made at the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and it includes government departments and agencies, local authorities, development and humanitarian donors, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and international financial institutions in its membership.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: *Uganda's asylum space is strengthened and unhindered; access to territory is preserved and international protection standards are adhered to.*

RRP partners will ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to asylum, fair and accelerated asylum procedures, and full enjoyment of their rights as outlined in international and domestic laws. Partners will continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to respond to emergencies, and support improvements in registration and the asylum system. Partners will provide protection services, based on identification and referral of cases through protection monitoring, and will work with community-based structures to mitigate protection risks.

SO2: *Life-saving humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum-seekers are met, with attention to age, gender, and diversity considerations.*

Partners will continue to provide life-saving assistance on an ongoing basis, including access to protection, healthcare, shelter and more. In addition, special focus will be given to vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion to ensure equal access to protection services assistance and decision-making opportunities.

SO3: *All affected people in refugee-hosting districts benefit from a healthy natural environment and improved social services, including health, education, water and sanitation, and social welfare, provided through national systems, where possible.*

RRP partners will promote inclusive access to quality education and health in the national systems, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and inclusion of refugees into national development plans and statistical systems. Partners will increase advocacy with development actors to bridge the humanitarian development nexus and further facilitate the transition from humanitarian response to early recovery, and durable solutions, in line with the government's commitments to achieve the goals of the CRRF/GCR.

SO4: *All affected people in refugee-hosting districts live peacefully with each other and progressively attain self-reliance in an environment conducive to livelihood opportunities.*

Peaceful coexistence among communities and the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) will remain a priority. The peaceful co-existence atmosphere prevailing in the settlements and surrounding communities enables refugees and asylum-seekers to pursue livelihood and economic activities for the enhancement of their self-reliance and resilience. Partners will continue to strengthen the enabling environment for refugee economic inclusion by strengthening settlement and national coordination structures. Sustained advocacy for refugees' access to economic resources such as arable land, formal employment opportunities and self-employment will continue to be pursued.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

A core aspect of the protection response is to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to a fair and efficient asylum system and continued advocacy for prima facie recognition of Sudanese asylum-seekers. More effort will be hinged towards ensuring that refugees fully enjoy their rights as outlined in international and domestic laws. Partners will continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to respond to emergencies and support improvements in individual registration, access to civil registration and documentation, and fair and efficient procedures.

These efforts will be complemented by continuous consultation with communities, identification of protection risks, dissemination of information on available services and cross-referrals for all identified cases in need of specialized care. Community structures will be engaged to reinforce the protection environment, mitigating protection risks, and providing community-based protection support to groups and individuals with specific protection needs and at risk of marginalization and exclusion. More efforts will be made to reinforce comprehensive feedback and response mechanisms through the interagency feedback, reporting and referral mechanism (FRRM) to ensure accountability to affected populations, with an emphasis on people with specific needs to ensure equal access to protection assistance and decision-making opportunities. Noting the high incidences of mental health cases, community case identification, psychoeducation and individual counselling, treatment of mild/moderate cases and referral will be enhanced. Partners will also continue to create awareness on the legal framework, including procedures and requirements for refugee status determination (especially for instance for Eritrean refugees coming from Sudan), for registering vital events, for accessing employment and business opportunities. Legal aid partners in Kampala will also raise awareness about tenancy agreements for urban refugees. Accountability to affected communities will be strengthened across the refugee response through meaningful participation of communities, with due attention to age, gender and diversity (AGD)

considerations.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

Children are 43 per cent of the registered Sudanese refugees in Uganda. To promote longer-term change and prevent child rights violations, child protection partners will work to enhance the role of community members in protecting children. Furthermore, to address the complex needs of refugee children, the child protection sector working group will continue to apply a comprehensive approach, prioritizing the provision of quality best interests procedures for children at risk, placement of unaccompanied children and other children at risk into adequate alternative care through community-based fostering initiatives, in line with the National Framework for Alternative Care, under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MGLSD); promotion of children's access to psychosocial support and recreation; supporting communities to protect children, targeted programming focused on addressing specific protection risks and needs of adolescent girls and boys as well as supporting other sectors to mainstream child protection into their interventions. To foster sustainability, all programme components will integrate professional capacity development for government social workers, and NNGO personnel and community-level workers. In addition, parasocial workers will be trained in line with the national parasocial workers framework and guidelines of the government. All activities are geared towards facilitating sustainable child protection programming through inclusion and access of refugee children into national child protection systems, including access to birth registration. Partners will ensure that children have access to timely and quality protection services and strengthen the national system for child protection in alignment with the Uganda 2020 Child Policy. UNHCR will work with ICRC and partners to ensure that family tracing and reunification is initiated as soon as unaccompanied and separated children are identified among new arrivals.

Sub-sector: Gender-based Violence (GBV)

To decrease the incidents of GBV, partners will engage in prevention activities aimed at addressing the root causes of violence, including longer-term attitudes and behavioural changes. The SASA! Together methodology will be rolled out gradually. The sector will also ensure that survivors of GBV and those at risk have access to survivor-centred and timely case management services, as well as linking survivors to multi-sectoral support. In line with the 2021-2025 GBV sector working group strategy, GBV incidents will be reduced by integrating risk-mitigation measures and reviewing sectoral strategies and activities. The sector will enhance the integration of the response into existing national coordination platforms and build the capacities of refugee-led organizations (RLOs), including those led by refugee women and girls, to prevent GBV.

The sector will collaborate with other sectors to effectively mitigate GBV risks and support survivors. This collaboration will include the health sector to integrate GBV screening, counselling, and referral services into healthcare settings, the education sector to promote gender equality, prevent violence, and provide support to learners who may be at risk of or experiencing GBV, the livelihood sector to address the root causes of GBV, and the cash-based initiative (CBI) sector by offering flexibility and autonomy to survivors, allowing them to prioritize their needs.

Education

To ensure equitable access to quality education for school-aged children and youth in refugee-hosting areas, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) in partnership with stakeholders developed the second Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (ERP II). The ERP II seeks to ensure that the population in refugee-hosting districts benefits from improved access to social services, including education. To support the needs of over 12,000 school going age Sudanese children, partners will continue to provide safe, equitable, and inclusive quality education and training services to increase access and retention of children, adolescents, and youth, particularly girls, within an education system that is progressively integrated (refugees and hosts). To enhance government-led coordination, system-strengthening, monitoring and evaluation, education sector partners will advocate for supportive plans, strategies, and regulatory frameworks through community-level engagement. Partners will ensure that the sector benefits from improved multisectoral coordination of services, strengthen evidence-driven planning and decision-making and conduct policy and regulatory advocacy. Support will be provided for infrastructure, including temporary structures and a double-shift school system to accommodate the population and recruitment of teaching assistants and

qualified and licensed teachers from the Sudanese population to bridge the language barrier.

Food Security

The Uganda refugee operation has implemented a progressive shift to needs-based targeting of all relief food and cash assistance to refugees. The new model was built on consultations and drew extensively on UNHCR and the government's 2022 Individual Profiling Exercise data in defining refugee vulnerability. Currently, the most vulnerable beneficiaries receive 60 per cent of the food rations, the moderately vulnerable receive 30 per cent, and the least vulnerable have been transitioned off general food assistance. New arrivals have a 'grace period' of three months on a 100 per cent ration following relocation and another three months on a 60 per cent ration before they are moved to 30 per cent of the food rations.

For the Sudanese new arrivals, partners will assess the needs and causes of food insecurity across the population through food and nutrition security monitoring and evaluation systems, such as the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) and Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (MVAM) as well as post-distribution monitoring (PDM), to inform the targeting criteria for individual households based on needs and context. The choice of the assistance modality will continue to be based on feasibility and appropriateness (in-kind or cash transfer) while taking into consideration the needs of specific groups such as women, girls, and people with disabilities.

Public Health & Nutrition

The public health and nutrition sector will strengthen the provision of equitable, safe, quality, and sustainable health services for Sudanese asylum-seekers, refugees, and host communities. This includes a new arrival package comprising of emergency health care, minimum initial service package for reproductive health (MISP), preventive and curative nutrition services. Comprehensive primary health care services for refugees will be accessed through the integrated national health system. Emphasis will be laid on strengthening disease prevention through health promotion, the use of Village Health Teams and Refugee Welfare Councils, and the provision of curative, palliative and rehabilitative services, as guided by the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HSIRRP) 2019-2024. The overall goal will be to have improved healthy and productive lives by reducing maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality, providing sexual and reproductive health services including to GBV survivors, reducing morbidity and mortality associated with HIV/TB, reducing mortality and disability from communicable and non-communicable diseases, enhancing nutrition well-being through promoting optimal feeding practices and treating acute malnutrition, enhancing well-being through mental health and psychosocial support services; and reduce malnutrition.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion (LEI)

The livelihoods and resilience sector aims to ensure that all communities affected by displacement in refugee hosting districts live peacefully with each other, and progressively attain self-reliance in a conducive environment for livelihood opportunities. The core of the sector is promoting surplus agricultural production as this is the most available pathway for income generation and facilitating employment and small enterprise in line with Uganda's Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP), and the National Development Plan III (2020/21 – 2025/26).

The livelihoods and resilience sector will use a household approach as a primary targeting modality to reach both refugee and host community households with productive assets and technical assistance, enabling the entire household to benefit indirectly from the increased availability of nutritious foods and income. Using the graduation approach, households will be transitioned progressively to attain self-reliance. The approach applies carefully sequenced, multi-sectoral interventions, including a social assistance package to ensure basic consumption; skills training; asset transfer or employment opportunities; financial inclusion through financial education and access to savings; and coaching or mentoring to build confidence and reinforce skills to support people as they move from assistance to more sustainable livelihoods. Where refugees and host communitieswill be targeted through groups, sector partners will focus on strengthening the capacities of existing livelihood groups rather than creating new ones.

Settlement & Shelter/Housing

The sector will ensure that refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities in Kiryandongo benefit from a healthy natural environment, and improved social services, provided through national systems where possible. This will be achieved through an integrated, area-based approach to settlement planning aimed at land use optimization through a hub approach to ensure self-sustaining refugee settlements taking into consideration land carrying capacity, sustainable access to natural resources, and the community's priorities. Land use master plans will be developed for areas receiving new arrivals in consultation with the concerned population, to guide systematic plot demarcation and allocation for specific uses such as shelter and kitchen gardens, farming for subsistence and surplus production, woodlots, protected areas, roads, WASH facilities and other physical infrastructure such as for education and health and communal spaces among others. In line with the land use master plans, the area designated for woodlots will be established with fast-growing tree seedlings to supply firewood in the short term.

The sector will ensure that all affected communities receive appropriate and timely emergency shelter materials and NFI support including an improved cookstove for the new arrivals in line with the minimum agreed standards for Uganda. The sector will continue to prioritize provision of emergency shelter kits and cash-based assistance of other NFIs to empower refugees with greater independence and dignity, as well as contribute to the local economy. . The sector will encourage partners to implement an owner-driven approach to shelter construction, building local capacity for construction and contributing to livelihoods for refugees and host communities. This strategy is aligned with government-led response plans, including the Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) and the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) for refugees and host communities. Furthermore, an environment and energy strategy for UNHCR will be developed to guide the sector strategy in line with climate change.

Legal aid actors in Kampala will promote access to adequate housing and support the signing of tenancy agreements for refugees who are renting accommodation in the five divisions and surrounding areas.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The WASH sector will ensure that refugees and host populations have improved equitable and sustainable access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services. With the WESRRP in full implementation, the sector is focusing on the inclusion of WASH service delivery into government-mandated institutions to improve WASH services at households and institutions. Improvement in coverage and quality of water supply and sanitation infrastructure is key to ensuring that minimal thresholds of WASH services are met. Access to family latrines remains a priority in the settlements and host communities. WASH partners will utilize low-cost treatment facilities and capacitate community structures to turn waste into value through linkages with the private sector.
Improving cost-effectiveness and monitoring the supply of water and sanitation services remain important. This includes life cycle analysis and optimization of existing infrastructure, and adoption of appropriate real-time digital technologies to monitor water systems and geo-referencing of all WASH facilities. The use of renewable energy for pumping water will be promoted, and augmented catchment protection and rehabilitation activities will be incorporated and strengthened as part of catchment management. Finally, community engagement in the management of facilities and services will be strengthened to improve participation and ownership.

Basic Needs

Building on the initial Common Cash Approach (CCA) developed in 2020, the Cash Working Group (CWG) is now proposing a Harmonized Cash Approach (HCA), to position cash as a preferred modality for humanitarian assistance delivery across sectors and to build a conducive environment for successfully implementing interventions promoting financial inclusion of refugees. Partners will emphasize the use of cash based assistance for basic needs, which is line with the Harmonized Cash Approach (HCA) The HCA is structured around three pillars: (i) enhancing access to and quality of financial services; (ii) using humanitarian cash assistance as a catalyst for financial inclusion and strengthening ties to self-reliance; and (iii) harmonizing interventions for greater efficiency and increased humanitarian assistance delivered through digital financial services.

Concrete activities of the HCA implemented by the CWG, and its members include the roll-out of Financial Literacy Training Minimum Standards, endorsed by the Bank of Uganda, a shift towards increased utilization of digital financial services for delivering cash and food assistance, the monetization of the new arrival assistance packages, improved reporting for humanitarian cash actors using

UNHCR's ProGres and building synergies with cash actors beyond the refugee response. The CWG, in collaboration with stakeholders, is working closely to implement this new strategy effectively. Additionally, the CWG is strengthening its collaboration with refugee-led organizations. The scaling up of cash initiatives will be closely monitored, considering market functionality, accessibility, and availability.

CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
  - Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion
  - Sub-Section: Youth
  - Sub- Section: Older People
- Accountability to Affected People (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Climate Action
- Cash Assistance

Read more in the Regional Overview pp. 16 -17

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

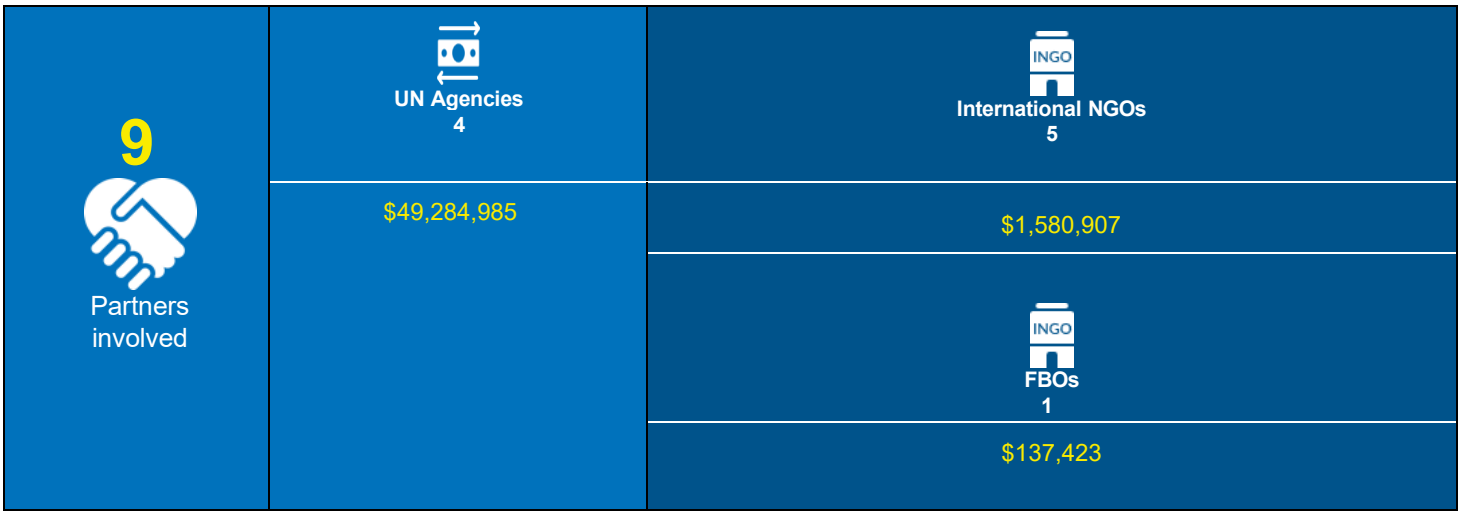
Strong partnerships and coordination across sectors are pivotal for the response adhering to the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Refugee Coordination Model. The 2024 Sudan plan encompasses a multisectoral response backed by a diverse array of actors comprising of nine partners, including International NGOs, and UN agencies. Many of these partners are already part of the Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan. The focus of these partnerships extends beyond emergency assistance, aiming to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of Sudanese refugees, including to foster peaceful coexistence with host communities. To this effect, the Sudan regional RRP is an opportunity to leverage existing partnership frameworks to advance refugee protection and inclusion. The Sudan RRP also continues to deepen engagement with development and peacebuilding partners, leveraging processes led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community to seek sustainable solutions for Sudanese refugees.

Partnership and Coordination

Sector coordination is done through the refugee response coordination framework established by the Government of Uganda and co-led by UNHCR and the Department of Refugees within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Each sector has established sector coordination meetings that enable a comprehensive complementary response from the government and all partners, for example the National Refugee Protection Working Group. The sector meetings are held at the settlement level to enable more operational discussions, while the national-level coordination meetings facilitate strategic discussions, which also enable harmonized refuge response.

In addition, the refugee response is supported by the Refugee Engagement Forum and the District Engagement Forum, which are quarterly events that bring together refugee leaders from all settlements and representatives of refugee-hosting districts to Kampala ahead of the CRRF Steering Group meetings to provide communities with a platform that amplifies their voices and brings issues to the attention of the Steering Group in a timely manner.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

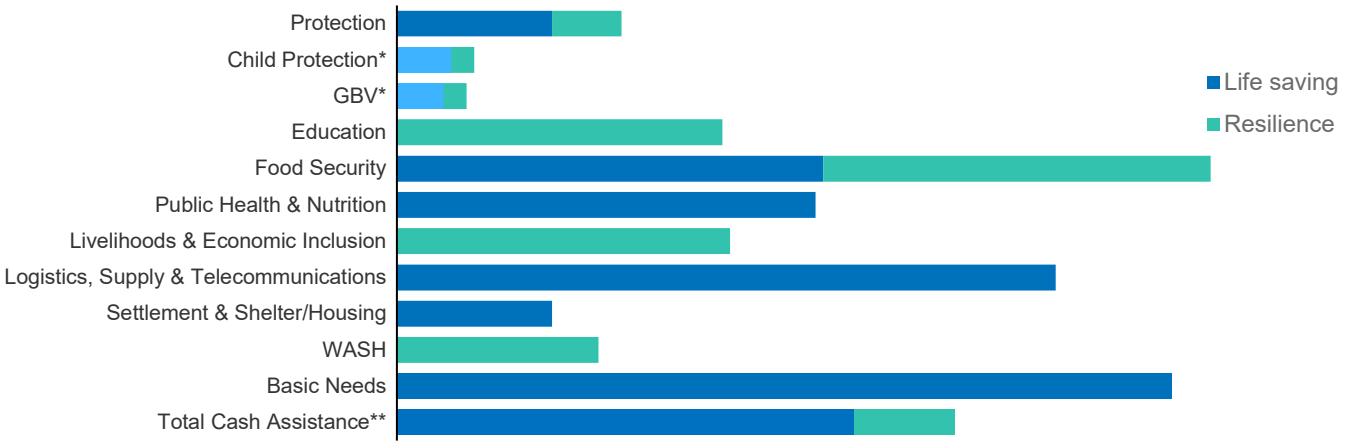


Budget Summary by Sector

Sector	***Life Saving***	***Resilience/Systems Strengthening***	***Total in USD***
Protection	*2,177,846*	*933,362*	*3,111,208*
➢ *Of which Child Protection*	*734,900*	*314,957*	*1,049,857*
➢ *Of which GBV*	*615,454*	*263,766*	*879,220*
Education		*4,231,121*	*4,231,121*
Food Security	*5,531,000*	*5,000,000*	*10,531,000*
Public Health and Nutrition	*5,432,945*		*5,432,945*
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion		*4,328,303*	*4,328,303*
Logistics, Supply and Telecommunications	*8,500,000*		*8,500,000*
Settlement and Shelter/Housing	*2,045,000*		*2,045,000*
WASH		*2,617,000*	*2,617,000*
Basic Needs	*10,069,315*		*10,069,315*
Total	***33,756,106***	***17,109,786***	***50,865,892***

Budget summary by sector at country level

Million in USD



** CP and GBV budgets are subsets of the Protection budget*

*** This is a compilation of the requirements for cash assistance that are included in different sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026 (https://www.unhcr.org/media/2022-2026-unhcr-policy-cash-based-interventions). Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. Unrestricted/ multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector. As the modality of choice of the people we work for and with, multipurpose cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Budget Summary by Partner

Partner	Acroynm /Short Title	Type	Requirements in USD
International NGO			**1,580,907**
International Rescue Committee	IRC	INGO	445,000
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	INGO/FBO	137,423
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	INGO	635,121
Plan International	PI	INGO	350,000
Save the Children International	SCI	INGO	13,363
United Nations			**49,284,985**
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	UN	10,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	UN	3,329,885
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	UN	30,000,000
World Food Programme	WFP	UN	5,955,100
Total (USD)			**50,865,892**

Annex 1 – Regional Budget Summary by Country and Partner

Partner	Type	Central African Republic	Chad	Egypt	Ethiopia	Libya	South Sudan	Uganda	Total (USD)
ACRA Foundation	INGO		708,205						708,205
ACROSS	INGO						105,240		105,240
Action for the Needy in Ethiopia	NNGO				6,500,000				6,500,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	INGO/ FBO						700,000		700,000
Agence de Développement Economique et Social	NNGO		2,000,000						2,000,000
Association for International Development Cooperation	NNGO		956,923						956,923
Africa Development Aid	NNGO						1,450,000		1,450,000
African Community Agency for Development and Relief	INGO						25,000		25,000
Agency for Child Relief Aid	NNGO						200,000		200,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	INGO		6,155,364			1,500,000	1,750,000		9,405,364
Association of Ethiopians Educated in Germany	NNGO				204,434				204,434
Balqees	NNGO/ RLO			51,025					51,025
Care Egypt Foundation	NNGO			807,506					807,506
Catholic Relief Services	INGO/ FBO		1,907,000	1,030,586					2,937,586
Community Organization for Development and Empowerment	NNGO						400,000		400,000
Concern Worldwide	INGO		1,238,930						1,238,930
Cooperazione Internazionale	INGO	783,531	1,000,000						1,783,531
Cooperazione e Sviluppo	INGO					530,000			530,000
DanChurchAid	INGO/ FBO				855,000				855,000
Danish Refugee Council	INGO					2,000,000	975,000		2,975,000
Dialogue and Research Institute	NNGO						750,000		750,000
Doctors Actively Serving in Africa	NNGO						420,525		420,525

Don Bosco	INGO/ FBO			1,188,497					1,188,497
Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights	NNGO			100,000					100,000
Egyptian Red Crescent	RC			4,958,498					4,958,498
Episcopal Development Aid	NNGO/ FBO						642,000		642,000
Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission	NNGO/ FBO				5,606,000				5,606,000
Food & Agriculture Development Agency	NNGO						500,000		500,000
Food Against Hunger	INGO						1,771,000		1,771,000
Food and Agriculture Organization	UN	4,200,000			7,168,000		11,300,000	10,000,000	32,668,000
For Afrika	INGO						1,349,335		1,349,335
Gezour Foundation	NNGO			37,440					37,440
GOAL	INGO				500,000		1,761,374		2,261,374
Good Neighbors	INGO		500,000						500,000
Greater Upper Nile Organization	NNGO						200,000		200,000
HelpPage International	INGO				1,200,000				1,200,000
HELPCODE/ ODP	INGO					700,000			700,000
Hope Restoration South Sudan	NNGO						1,200,000		1,200,000
Humanitarian and Development Consortium	INGO						410,000		410,000
Humanity & Inclusion	INGO			1,140,000			2,900,000		4,040,000
I Win SSD	NNGO						75,000		75,000
IMPACT INITIATIVE	INGO					135,000			135,000
INKOMOKO	INGO						2,000,000		2,000,000
Innovative Humanitarian Solutions	INGO				337,000				337,000
Integrated Humanitarian Aid	NNGO						2,350,000		2,350,000
International Committee for Emergency Aid and Development	INGO		3,540,000						3,540,000
International Committee for the Development of People	INGO				665,968				665,968
International Labour Organization	UN			2,614,600					2,614,600
International Medical Corps	INGO	1,082,003			100,000	3,000,000			4,182,003
International Organization for Migration	UN	2,568,500	34,000,000	14,500,000	7,200,000	4,070,000	274,100		62,612,600

International Rescue Committee	INGO		1,057,244		2,520,620	3,290,000	8,912,732	445,000	16,225,596
INTERSOS	INGO		4,785,000			1,365,000			6,150,000
Life Makers Foundation (Egypt)	NNGO			5,865,793					5,865,793
Lutheran World Federation	INGO/ FBO		1,522,479		1,200,000		4,813,000	137,423	7,672,902
MAIS	NNGO			259,500					259,500
Medair	INGO						6,750,000		6,750,000
Medicair	INGO						534,000		534,000
Mercy Corps	INGO				3,000,000				3,000,000
Norwegian Church Aid	INGO/ FBO				1,468,148				1,468,148
Norwegian Refugee Council	INGO		7,150,000		12,800,000	2,125,000	3,700,000	635,121	26,410,121
OXFAM International	INGO		4,183,555				3,050,000		7,233,555
Peace and Education Development Programme	NNGO						493,000		493,000
Plan International	INGO		2,000,000	746,447	216,735		847,624	350,000	4,160,806
Premiere Urgence International	INGO					1,400,000			1,400,000
Rehabilitation and Development Organization	NNGO				2,640,000				2,640,000
Relief International	INGO						10,000,000		10,000,000
Save the Children Internatonal	INGO			6,498,725			1,515,000	13,363	8,027,088
Sayria Al Gad	NNGO			21,990					21,990
Solidarites International	INGO		1,721,056				975,000		2,696,056
Survivor Aid	NNGO						970,000		970,000
Terre Des Hommes International	INGO			660,000		900,000			1,560,000
UN Women	UN	350,000		727,500					1,077,500
United Nations Children's Fund	UN	2,700,000	34,042,024	4,945,221	9,776,499	5,750,000	17,146,532	3,329,885	77,690,161
United Nations Development Programme	UN			25,000,000					25,000,000
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	UN			499,500					499,500
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UN	22,000,000	214,800,000	57,746,792	81,309,078	10,000,000	191,306,479	30,000,000	607,162,349
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UN			1,175,000					1,175,000
United Nations Population Fund	UN	3,503,103	5,225,308	4,510,000	2,500,000	2,135,000	3,318,780		21,192,191
United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS	UN			77,000					77,000

United Networks for Health	NNGO						324,800		324,800
World Food Programme	UN	7,182,780	278,232,545	32,130,390	22,945,880	4,460,000	84,387,033	5,955,100	435,293,728
World Health Organization	UN	1,804,075	6,000,000	15,000,000	2,500,000	5,250,000	400,000		30,954,075
World Relief	INGO		17,560,878						17,560,878
World Vision International	INGO/ FBO				346,618				346,618
Youth and Development Consultancy Institute Etijah	NNGO			850,067					850,067
ZOA	INGO/ FBO				2,200,000				2,200,000
									-
Total (USD)		**46,173,992**	**630,286,511**	**183,142,076**	**175,759,980**	**48,610,000**	**372,952,554**	**50,865,892**	**1,507,791,005**

Note: Appealing partners are entities whose activities are submitted under the RRP for funding, and which will be monitored through the Plan's monitoring and reporting framework. An entity that is contracted by an appealing organization to implement that organization's activity shall not submit a funding requirement to the RRP.

Annex 2 – Regional Monitoring Framework 2024 Targets

	Sector	Indicator	Central African Republic	Chad	Egypt	Ethiopia	South Sudan	Total
	Protection	# of people registered on an individual basis	28,996	653,000	300,194	168,420	80,000	1,230,610
		# of people who received protection services	71,176	730,000	38,720	17,155	107,280	964,331
		# of people transported from border crossings to final destinations	13,000	580,000	NA	27,000	65,000	685,000
		Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	100%	25%	86%	100%	80%	78%
	Sub-sector: Child Protection	# of children who received child protection services	13,956	200,000	46,325	26,030	146,850	390,762
		# of unaccompanied and separated children	1,500	1,300	4,000	9,957	30,470	45,227
	Sub-sector: GBV	# of identified GBV survivors and persons at risk assisted with appropriate support (including dignity kits, life-saving services, psychosocial support, case management, referral)	2,000	9,500	23,412	1,900	25,000	61,812
		# of people reached through GBV prevention activities	71,176	15,000	20,802	130,000	214,560	451,538
	Basic Needs	# of people benefitting from the multipurpose cash assistance (CBI)	13,101	234,800	208,281	168,420	264,228	888,830
		# of people supported with emergency transportation cash allowance	5,000	NA	1,000	NA	NA	6,000
	Education	Proportion of children enrolled in primary education	47%	50%	89%	40%	30%	51%
		Proportion of children enrolled in secondary education	30%	17%	78%	20%	6%	30%
		Proportion of children and youth engaged in formal and informal educational activities	50%	42%	85%	34%	24%	47%

	Food security	# of people receiving food assistance (in-kind/CBI/hybrid)	20,000	829,750	109,000	139,510	475,170	1,573,470
	Public Health & Nutrition	# of individuals received primary health care consultations	44,876	1,234,000	159,990	100,000	504,500	2,028,692
		# of births attended by skilled health workers	1,900	20,985	NA	1,218	40,508	64,611
		# of children below 5 years of age screened for malnutrition	6000	114,500	20,000	15,000	154,102	302,002
	Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion	# of people who received livelihood support (productive assets, training and/or business support in cash or in kind)	10,000	300,000	18,262	85,000	116,571	529,833
	Settlement & Shelter/Housing	# of emergency shelter provided/maintained	6,667	90,000	200	10,780	31,784	139,431
		# of people who received non-food items	20,000	450,000	NA	7,500	205,700	683,200
	WASH	# of people per communal toilet/latrine	20	20	20	50	20	20
		Average # of litres of potable water available per person per day	20	15	20	20	20	20
	Partnership	# of RRP partners able to deliver in the response	10	23	27	25	42	86*

NA denotes the indicator is not applicable to the response in that country.
Indicator targets in the monitoring framework for Libya and Uganda are not included in this table
**UN agencies and some international NGOs are operational in more than one country but are counted only once as a partner in the RRP although their interventions may vary by country. Includes 17 partners from Libya and 9 partners from Uganda.*

SUDAN EMERGENCY

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

In January 2024, more than 150,000 Sudanese refugees who fled conflict in Sudan since April 2023 still live in makeshift shelters in the spontaneous refugee site in the border town of Adre, Chad without adequate access to basic services. They are in urgent need of relocation to safer areas with better access to support and services.
©UNHCR/Ying Hu

CONTACT
Nayana Bose
bose@unhcr.org

Published: 2 July 2024